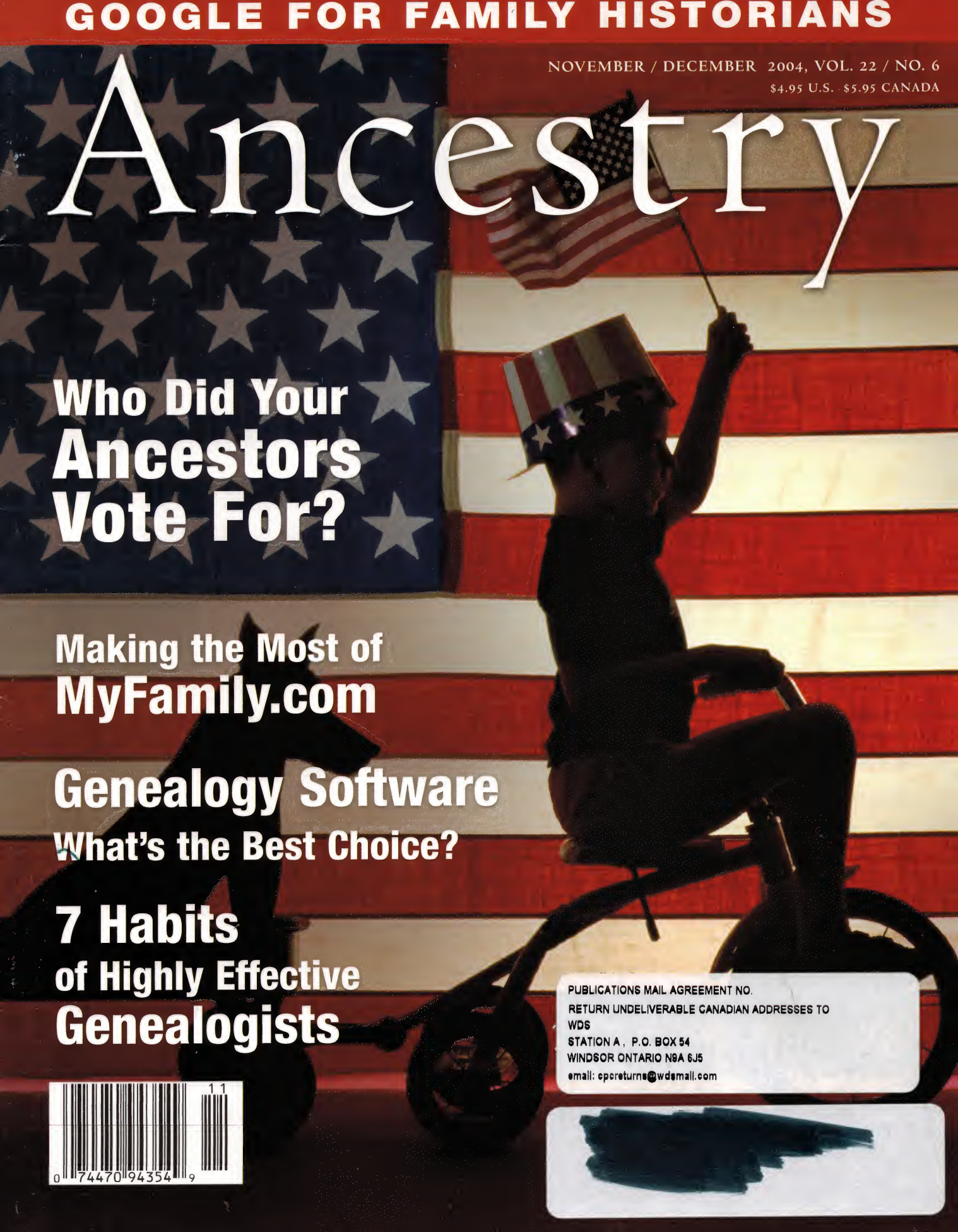


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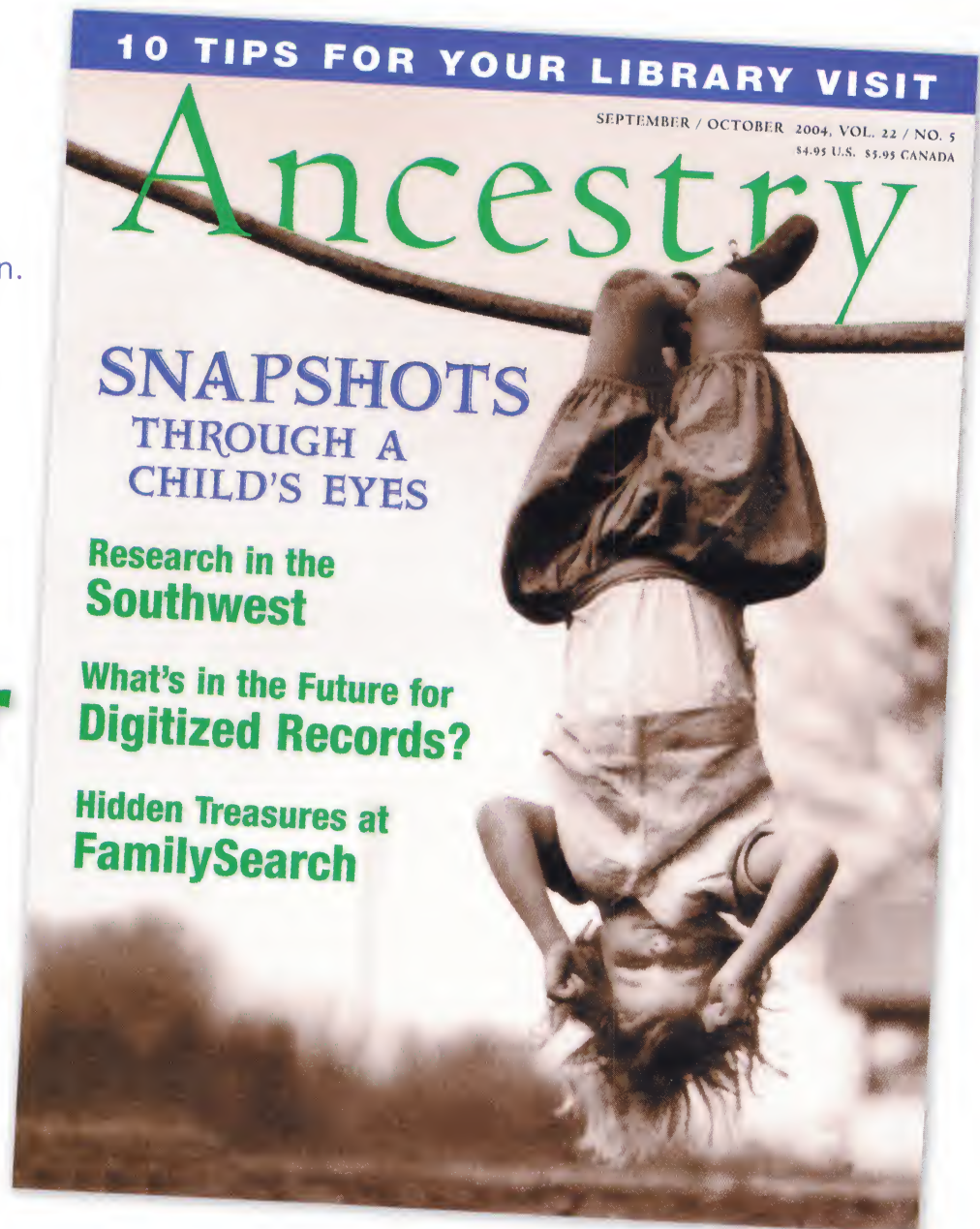
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Features



16 Power of the People: The Politics of Our Ancestors

The sources listed here will give you an idea of your ancestors' voting records, the political parties they were affiliated with, and the issues that mattered most to them.

by Candace L. Doriott

22 Genealogy Software: What's the Best Choice?

With all the options out there these days, how do you know which genealogy software is right for your needs? Find out here.

by Matthew Helm

28 Making the Most of MyFamily.com

A MyFamily.com website gives your family a virtual home where even the furthest-flung relatives can be brought up-to-date with current family events.

by Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A.

34 Beginning Spanish Research

Spain's wealth of records can give even a novice researcher the hope of successfully tracing family lines.

by George and Peggy Hill Ryskamp

42 Your Visit to the Courthouse

Those record books stored at the county courthouse may be awkward and dusty, but with all they have to offer, you won't want to avoid them for long.

by Christine Rose, CG, CGL, FASG





- 6 **Editor's Note**
- 7 **From Our Readers**
- 8 **What's New at MyFamily.com, Inc.**
- 9 **Community** *by Anastasia Sutherland*
- 14 **Book View**

- 48 **Back to Basics**
Working with a Professional
 When you're up against that brick wall, sometimes your best option is to hire a professional researcher.
by Paula Stuart Warren, CGRS

- 51 **Research Cornerstones**
Migratory Trends of the Past
 How have cluster migration patterns influenced the lives of your ancestors?
by Roseann Reinemuth Hogan, Ph.D.

- 55 **Digging Deeper**
The Ladies in Your Lineage
 Getting in touch with the feminine side of your family tree may take some extra sleuthing, but it's worth the effort.
by Laura G. Prescott

- 59 **Technology**
Google for Genealogy
 The advanced search capabilities of Google make it a must-use for all family historians.
by Mark Howells

- 62 **Case Study**
A Closer Look at Harry's Uniform
 Sometimes the big break in a research problem comes when you consider the seemingly insignificant details.
by Gordon Hall Wright

- 66 **Bare Bones**
The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Genealogists
by Beau Sharbrough

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It all started with an autobiographical sketch that my grandfather penned when he was seventy-six years old. On what's now a tattered but treasured sheet of paper, he outlined the highlights of his life, including his birth date, the birth dates of his children, and what seemed to be the most exciting event in his lifetime—the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge.

In 1869—my grandfather's birth year—the hazardous work of building what would one day be called “the eighth wonder of the world” began. The bold project was the brainchild of German-born John Roebling, who died the first year of construction when tetanus set in after his foot was crushed on the site. After Roebling's death, his son Washington, who had been his father's partner on the project, took on the burden of completing the bridge.

For three years, Washington Roebling worked alongside his men in the dangerous caissons, digging deep under the turbulent East River that separates Brooklyn from New York City to build the massive foundations that anchor the architectural landmark. But in 1872, Roebling contracted caisson disease and became bedridden before the job was halfway completed. With the help of his wife Emily he managed completion of construction by watching the progress of the work through a telescope from his bedroom window. Emily, an extraordinary woman in any time, was Washington's sole communicator to the builders for the duration of the project. She trained herself in engineering and even graduated from law school when she was fifty-five years old.

Against staggering odds, the Great Bridge was completed fourteen years after it was begun. Of that historic time, my grandfather wrote: “I crossed it on May 20th, 1883, a few days before it opened to the public.”

He must have felt a special connection to the bridge that entered Brooklyn just one block from his family home. Somehow I've inherited a love for the bridge, too. My grandfather's parents watched their son and the bridge grow together—all within a few blocks of where the Roebling family labored to bring the dream to life.

The opportunity to go into New York City with some of my grandchildren, their parents, and their cousins came up

last summer. I was thrilled when they agreed to stroll over the Brooklyn Bridge with me. It was a blazing hot day, and many more times than once I was asked if we were almost there. It wasn't until we got to the middle of the bridge, felt the breeze, and saw the water and the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, that I was reassured that this mile-long pilgrimage would be fondly remembered by my grandchildren.

Since that July day, I've had an increasing sense of satisfaction for the adventure. My granddaughter Lauren says she thought the bridge, the skyline, and being able to do something like that with her family was great, and she'll always remember it. Her eight-year-old brother went home and made a book he called *Nolan's Book About the Brooklyn Bridge*. Nolan included a history of the building of the bridge, photos of my grandfather, and a pedigree chart showing his relationship to the man who had written about growing up in the shadow of the monumental engineering feat.

Lauren's and Nolan's little sister Claire was too young to be impressed with the history, but I'm hoping she will be someday. My next goal is to get my grandfather's other descendants to walk the bridge that he once walked.

Although it's no longer the longest suspension bridge in the world, the magnificent Brooklyn Bridge is still one of the most famous bridges in the world, and it continues to be a source of awe and affection for millions of people. It is also part of a tattered autobiography that is bridging six generations of my own family. ♡

Loretto (Lou) Dennis Szucs
Executive Editor
lszucs@myfamilyinc.com





My Father's Photo

As I was thumbing through the November/December 2003 issue of *Ancestry Magazine*, I was surprised and delighted to discover a picture of my father [on page 55]. He is the postman sitting in the mailbox eating his lunch. This photo first appeared in the *Medford Mail Tribune* newsletter about fifty years ago; my mother still has the glossy print we were given at that time. My father, John Bigoney Lynch, was known as "Jack" at the Medford post office where he worked. He died August 1982. Thanks for printing the photo of my father in *Ancestry*. It brings back memories of a wonderful and loving man.

Day Westine
Salem, Oregon

Success with Interlibrary Loan

Regarding the article "10 Tips to Becoming an Effective Library Patron" in the September/October 2004 issue of *Ancestry Magazine*, I have to particularly recommend number 9: "Don't Forget Interlibrary Loan."

I was in search of an obituary for a family that had stymied my research. No one had copies of the newspaper from this small and rural town, but the librarian suggested Interlibrary Loan.

I checked the Wisconsin State Historical Society website, located the papers and dates I wanted to see, then

ordered the microfilms to view at my own local library. This was not only convenient but also quite fruitful. I was able to track a family's life during the seven years they lived in town: church affiliation notices, town board minutes, obituaries, and the local gossip column that noted a son's courtship, a daughter's struggles, and their eventual relocation to Minneapolis. Without these newspaper items, I would never have known the Ginders. Interlibrary Loan works!

Karen Duffy
Hayward, Wisconsin

A Creative Family Cookbook

I tremendously enjoyed Connie Myers' article "Your Creative Family Tree" in the July/August 2004 issue of *Ancestry Magazine*. It gave me several new ideas.

One other creative endeavor not mentioned in the article is the family cookbook. They are a perfect medium for including family tree charts and photos, along with treasured family recipes and stories. They also make an enduring and usable family heirloom. What could be more special than seeing a photo of your great-grandmother alongside her recipe for a dish that family gatherings would be incomplete without?

Wendy A. Boughner Whipple
Matteson, Illinois

Uses for Ranked Search at Ancestry.com

After reading the *Ancestry Magazine* article on the new ranked search method at Ancestry.com (September/October 2004, p. 30), I have found that the new search can be very useful for returning all the different variations in a name that might appear in the record. But the key is to fill in as much information as possible. This is the opposite approach from what we're used to using with the "Exact Matches" search engine. By filling in all the fields you will limit the num-

ber of matches returned.

The "Best Matches" search will return variations in the spelling of the given name as well as the surname. It will also return matches when the record only gives an initial for the first name. For example, by searching on Dominique Dumaine (born in Louisiana in 1797 and died in 1863), the search engine will return records of him listed as Dominick or D. Dumaine, or his last name is Dumoin, and will return other Dumaine's listed in Louisiana, any of which may be related to him.

The search engine gives us another way of searching the same records that may help us pick up records we would miss in an exact, soundex, or wildcard search on a surname. It will be useful in some situations but not every situation. It just depends on who and what you're looking for.

Lynne M. Darrouzet, JD, CGRS

Dittos of Old

When reading Roseann Hogan's article in the July/August 2004 issue of *Ancestry Magazine* entitled "What Was in Your Ancestor's Estate?" I noted an error that should be clarified.

On page 51 the author states: "The first word of the list may be something similar to Do, which means 'ditto.'" In actuality, at the beginning of the line on any accounting list is "To" meaning "To the account of." You can clearly see this in the illustration at the bottom of the page.

The "do do" near the bottom of the list does mean "ditto ditto."

Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG

Readers' Voices Question

How has your genealogical society helped your research?

Please e-mail your response to Readers' Voices at
<editoram@ancestry.com>.

What's New at MyFamily.com, Inc.

Customer Contributed Content

Have you found errors in the census indexes online that you can prove through your own family history research? The new feature Customer Contributed Content (CCC) now allows Ancestry.com users to submit alternate names for a record, such as a maiden name or nickname, or to correct a transcription error. The goal is to combine the Ancestry.com data collection with the knowledge of its users to create a unique resource that helps people more easily find information about their family history.

The feature is currently available for the 1930 and 1880 U.S. Federal Censuses. In the future, this feature will extend to every field in every database on the website. Then, customers will be able to enter data that is on the image but not presently in the index, such as the parents' birth states in the census.

Ancestry.com Does Research for You

Family history searches just became much more convenient. The "People I'm Looking For" feature searches for your ancestors on every database on Ancestry.com—and the best part is that it's free! Simply provide some basic information about your ancestors and Ancestry.com will do the rest.

To access the "People I'm Looking For" feature, log on to Ancestry.com and click the My Ancestry tab. You will be directed to a page where you'll see the heading "People I'm Looking For." Click one of the plus signs to add a new name, then fill in any basic information you know (such as name and date and place of birth, marriage, and death) for each person you add. Click "Save" and the continuous search through the

millions of records on Ancestry.com will begin.

Ancestry.com will then send you e-mail updates when possible matches are found. And you control the frequency of these messages—receive updates once a week, twice a month, or once a month.

You can also conveniently add individuals to your "People I'm Looking For" list while you are researching. Did you find your great-great-grandfather in a 1900 U.S. Federal Census image? Click on the "Save" icon or text next to the record, and the individual you found will be saved in your list of "People I'm Looking For."

Port of New York, Ship Images, 1851–1891



This new database is an index to images (both photographs and artistic renderings) of ships that arrived from foreign ports at the port of New York from 1851–1891. Information contained in the index includes the given name, surname, age, and gender of

passengers along with their arrival date, port of departure, and ship name.

It is important to note that the port of departure listed on the passenger lists is not always the original port of departure for many of the individuals on the list. A ship could make several voyages throughout the year, making several stops along way. And often the port of departure found on these lists is the most recent port the ship was located at prior to arriving at the port of New York.

The ship photos in this database have been arranged chronologically by arrival date of vessel. If you do not wish to search this database using the search template, the images may be browsed.

Privacy Options at Ancestry.com

Many Ancestry.com customers have expressed interest in contacting other researchers but are concerned about maintaining their privacy. To help solve this problem, a new service was created to allow researchers to contact one another without revealing their e-mail address. This service debuted with the new OneWorldTree subscription and will soon become a standard feature of the other data collections.

Now, when fellow researchers find information you've submitted on Ancestry, instead of your personal e-mail address, they will see your Ancestry username and a link they can use to contact you. If you are contacted through this service, you can respond, regardless of whether you subscribe to Ancestry.com.

With this service you can communicate with others without revealing your identity; preserve your privacy when you submit information to key areas on Ancestry.com; and block unwanted e-mails from specific individuals.

FIND YOUR FAMILY'S BIBLE ONLINE

by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak

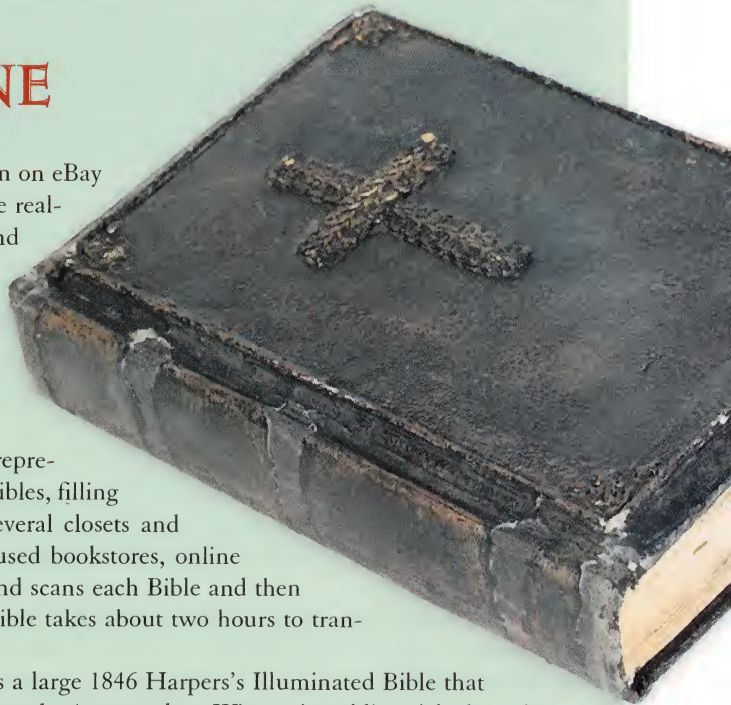
Tracy St. Claire was searching for the surname Wolverton on eBay and noticed a listing for "Wolverton Family Bible." She realized that it was the Wolverton Bible of her own family and immediately bought it for \$163. Encouraged by this success, Tracy began buying Bibles with her surnames or from areas her family had settled. "I soon had what I thought was a large collection, about thirty Bibles," Tracy says, "and figured that I ought to transcribe them and reunite them." Soon thereafter, Tracy began a website devoted to her Bible discoveries.

Today that website has over 1,000 transcribed family Bibles, representing over 3,000 surnames. Tracy owns approximately 1,200 Bibles, filling seven standard bookshelves, four large storage shelves, and several closets and boxes. She acquires the Bibles through eBay, antique stores, used bookstores, online used bookstores, and garage and yard sales. Tracy transcribes and scans each Bible and then posts the transcriptions and images on her website (a typical Bible takes about two hours to transcribe and post online).

Among the Bibles Tracy owns, but has not yet transcribed, is a large 1846 Harpers's Illuminated Bible that details one family until the Civil War and another family afterwards. Apparently, a Wisconsin soldier picked up the book on the battlefield during the war.

Take a few minutes to view Tracy's site at <www.biblerecords.com>.

From Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak's article "Finding Bibles Online," Ancestry Daily News, 13 August 2004. Read the entire text at <www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=8912>.



Traveling Holocaust Exhibits

Thousands of Jewish children survived the Holocaust by disguising their Jewish identities or physically concealing themselves in attics, cellars, barns, and sewers. Life in hiding was always fraught with danger, where a careless remark could lead to discovery and death. "Life in Shadows: Hidden Children and the Holocaust," one of the traveling exhibit sponsored by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), tells the remarkable stories of Nazism's most vulnerable victims.

In addition to "Life in Shadows" (March 2005–June 2006), exhibits currently traveling the nation include "Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings" (December 2004–December 2006), "Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals, 1933–1945" (June 2004–June 2006), and "Schindler" (July 2004–August 2006).

For dates and tour stops, see the USHMM website at <www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/>. Many of these exhibits can be viewed online at the same website.

USHMM, gift of David Tennenbaum



In 1942, eleven-year-old Dawid Tennenbaum went into hiding with his mother, settling in the Lvov region as Christians. Dawid disguised himself as a girl and as mentally disabled, which exempted him from attending school and averted his being exposed. Dawid kept up his disguise as a girl for some two years. To support his new identity, he obtained a false birth and baptismal certificate inscribed with the name "Teresa Marja Wiczorkowska."

Illinois World War II Veterans Memorial

Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois, will soon be home to the World War II Illinois Veterans Memorial, currently under construction. Located near the tomb of Abraham Lincoln, this memorial will honor the 987,000 Illinois citizens who served between 1941 and 1945, especially the 22,000 men who lost their lives in the second World War. In addition, the memorial will be a reminder to future generations of the sacrifices made to keep the United States, and the world, free and secure.

The centerpiece of the memorial's design will be a twelve-foot globe, representing the world in conflict during World War II. The globe will be surrounded by a granite wall engraved with the names and dates of major battles of the Pacific and European theaters. A central plaza will contain granite bricks. Each brick will be dedicated to a veteran and engraved with the veteran's name and branch of service.

For more information about this memorial, visit www.springfield-il.com and click on "WW II Memorial." The memorial will be dedicated 7 December 2004. All veterans and their families are welcome to attend.



Discovering the Unknown Stories of World War II HEROES



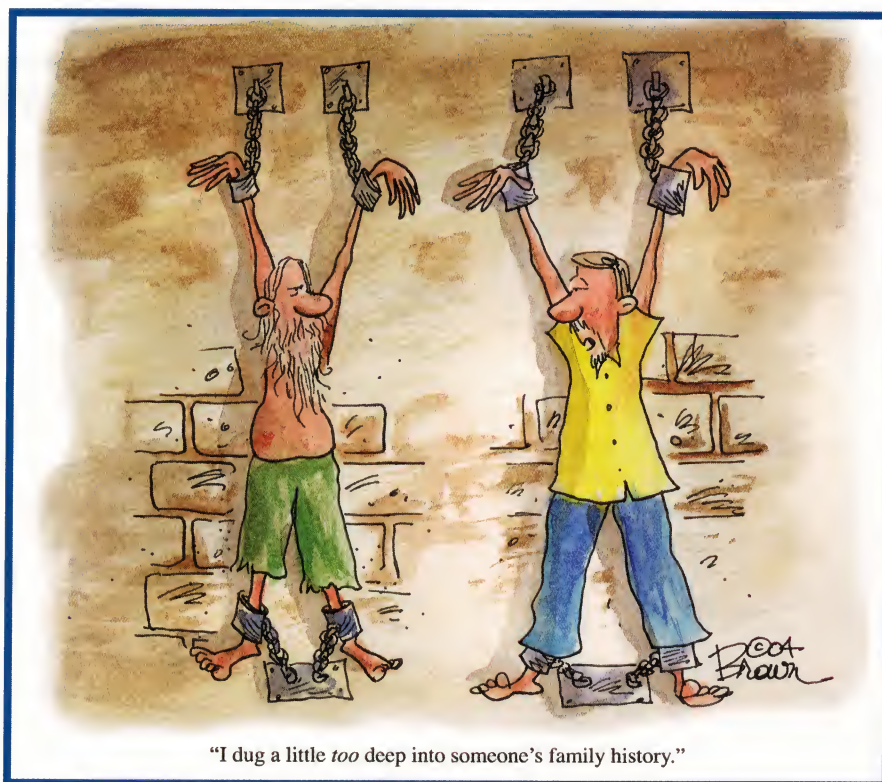
They fought together as brothers-in-arms. They died together and now they sleep side by side. To them we have a solemn obligation," said Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz of the men who gave their lives in World War II.

Historical researcher Bill Beigel seizes this obligation in his work to uncover the story behind World War II casualties' and veterans' experiences. Beigel believes that many vets don't share their war experiences with others because, although sixty years have passed, some events, like failing to save a comrade, can seem as if they happened yesterday. On the other hand, other service men have passed away, or never returned home, leaving their relatives desiring details about the person's war experiences and/or death.

Beigel recently helped Jackie Czelusta of New York find her father. She knew almost nothing about Quentin Becker because her mother divorced him shortly before his second European tour of duty. Czelusta grew up thinking he had returned to the war to earn money to support his baby daughter—her. He was killed on that tour, leaving Czelusta to grow up feeling guilty and responsible for his death. Beigel tracked down the true story: Becker returned to Europe under orders. Beigel also learned that Becker is buried in his Pennsylvanian hometown.

Beigel solves family mysteries because he knows how to ask the right questions and how to access hard-to-find information and Freedom of Information files. Beigel's understanding military terminology helps him interpret files that most people will not understand (i.e., files that are no more than acronyms). For more information about Bill Beigel and his research efforts, visit www.ww2research.com.





"I dug a little *too* deep into someone's family history."

Genealogy: *It's Elementary*

Forget the Egyptian pyramids and the Roman empire, today's school children are learning a branch of history much more interesting to them—their own.

Take, for example, Alexis Ford and Jessica Cross, two fourth-graders in a small Arizona town assigned to create a family tree and bring family heirlooms to class. Alexis's grandfather sent her a picture of his grandfather. Jessica visited her grandfather and selected an old photograph. When the girls presented their photos in class, they had the same picture of their great-great-grandfather standing next to a Model T Ford. Upon inspection of their family trees, the girls discovered that they were third cousins (Cathi A. Kniola, "Fourth-Graders Unearth 'Great' Theory of Relativity," *Arizona Republic*, 17 February 2004, B7).



Family history in the classroom seems to be a growing trend. The ever-increasing online resources help make family history research easy to adapt to classroom settings. Cheryl Waterman, a middle school teacher from Illinois, uses online census records to increase her students' interest in family history.

"We read a story by Alex Haley, and then do some writing about our own ancestors—and try to find them in the census [on Ancestry.com]. Of course, I am the only one with a membership, and I do the research at home, taking it to school and sharing it with them."

Similarly, high school students can turn their family history interest into awards. The Literary Awards Contest, open to students in grades nine through twelve and sponsored by the Connecticut Society of Genealogists (CSG), is seeking genealogy entries, family history entries, or other project entries related in some way to family history. All entries must

have some relevance to New England. For more information, call (860) 569-0002 or write to CSG, Inc., PO Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033-0435. The contest deadline is 15 February 2005. Winners will be announced at the CSG, Inc., annual meeting in May 2005.

Teachers interested in bringing family history into their classroom can find helpful tips at Genealogy.com <www.genealogy.com/genealogy/74_taylor.html>. Who knows, maybe your children are third-cousins twice removed from that red-headed neighbor boy.

COMMANDING

George W. Bush is our **FORTY-THIRD** president, however, he is only the **FORTY-SECOND** man to hold the office; Grover Cleveland was elected for two non-consecutive terms and is counted twice.

69 The age of Ronald Reagan, the oldest elected president, when he took office. John F. Kennedy was the youngest elected president at age **FORTY-THREE**. Theodore Roosevelt, however, was **FORTY-TWO** years old when he succeeded the assassinated McKinley.

15 Number of children that John Tyler was father of—the most of any president.

14 Number of presidents who served as vice presidents.

9 Number of presidents who never attended college.



NUMBERS

6'4" Height of Abraham Lincoln, the tallest president. James Madison, the shortest, was a foot shorter, a mere **5'4"**.

7 Number of heritages that all forty-three U.S. presidents come from (or in some combination thereof): Dutch, English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh, Swiss, or German.

2 Number of years when neither the president nor the vice president were elected by the people. President Richard Nixon appointed Gerald Ford as vice president after Spiro T. Agnew resigned the position in 1973. Ford assumed the presidency the following year upon Nixon's resignation. Ford appointed Nelson Rockefeller as vice president.

1 Number of presidents (James Buchanan) who never married.

Source: www.infoplease.com/spot/prestrivia1.html

Healthy Choices through Family History Awareness

Medical research helps us understand genetic influences on disease. Alcoholism, certain cancers, heart disease, diabetes, and schizophrenia are now increasingly understood in relation to genetic factors. With such knowledge, individuals can make lifestyle changes that reduce the risk of health problems. Unfortunately, this opportunity is lost on people who are unaware of their family history.

The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and its partners are working on the "Healthy Choices through Family History Awareness Project," which aims to increase awareness and understanding in underserved communities of how family history may influence personal health. The project will use an oral history approach to elicit health-related narratives. Researchers hope these narratives will uncover potential risk factors that might be overlooked in standard medical histories and that could influence health care decision-making.

In the initial phase of the project, a team of folklorists, applied anthropologists, and genetic health specialists will work in low-income African American and Latino communities to develop and field-test a family history tool. American Folklife Center Director Peggy Bulger says that this tool "will assist individuals and families to preserve data on family medical histories in a manner that can provide future generations with relevant family health information."

For more information on this project, visit www.loc.gov/today/pr/2004/04-102.html.



The Youth Award from FGS

The FGS Youth Award will be given out annually at the national FGS conference starting in 2005. Member societies can nominate youth, up to age eighteen, who have contributed in some genealogical capacity to their society. This could include some type of volunteer work, as well as many other things. Youth groups, such as Boy Scouts, will also be eligible as long as at least one member of the group is a member of a genealogical society. The society will need to be a member of FGS and the nominee would need to be a member of the society or the descendant of a member of the society.

There are two age groups. The first is for youth up to age fourteen. The second category comprises those age fifteen to eighteen.

Nominations can be submitted at any time during the year, but if a society would like the individual considered for the 2005 award, it is necessary that the nominating committee receive the name by 1 April 2005. Announcement of the winner will also include a prize package, which will vary from year to year.

Nominations can be e-mailed to the FGS Office at fgs-office@fgs.org or mail to: Federation of Genealogical Societies, PO Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940.

Photo Corner



This ca. 1920 photo shows my great-grandparents, John and Carry McLarty, in their vaudeville act. They performed on stage with Jimmy Durante, Clayton, and Jackson. The photo was taken in New York.

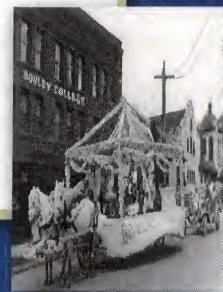
—submitted by Carol Bedwell

This 1910 photo, taken in Spokane, Washington, shows the first car of the Bouley family. My father, Frank William Bouley Jr., age five, is seated behind the wheel. His father, mother, and maternal grandmother are also shown.



The Bouleys ran a dancing school in Spokane from 1904 to 1944. This ca. 1915 photo shows their winning float in front of the school on West 4th Street.

—submitted by Frank Bouley



Would you like to see a favorite photo of your ancestors in *Ancestry Magazine*? Now you can submit your photos to Photo Corner. Submissions should include your name, contact information, date of photo, who is pictured, and a short description. Please do not submit a photo of living persons without their written consent. Mail a quality duplicate (no photocopies or originals) to *Ancestry Magazine* 360 West 4800 North, Provo, UT 84604, or e-mail a 300 DPI TIFF scan to editoram@ancestry.com. Submissions become the property of *Ancestry Magazine*. You will be contacted if your photo is chosen.

Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources, third edition

Edited by Alice Eichholz, Ph.D., CG. Ancestry, 2004. 793 pages. Hardcover. \$49.95. Order at <<http://shops.ancestry.com>>.

In celebration of *Red Book's* fifteen years in print, Ancestry Publishing is unveiling a third edition, marking the first revision of this seminal work since 1992. *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources* is the culmination of research of more than thirty scholars, historians, and professional genealogists. An expansive guide to the most useful resources in each of the fifty United States and the District of Columbia, *Red Book* consistently ranks high on the "must-have" lists of well-known genealogy publications.

The third edition effectively builds on the original's thoughtful organization and in-depth coverage of the best libraries and archives in the United States. *Red Book* also devotes a new section to the wealth of information now available on the Internet.

Red Book describes original, printed, microfilmed, and online sources available. Each state has listings in the following categories: vital records, census records, background sources, maps, land records, probate records, court records, tax records, cemetery records, church records, military records, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, archives, libraries, genealogical societies, special focus categories, and county resources. Each of these listings describes available resources and important information on finding and obtaining those resources.

Trace Your Roots with DNA

By Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak and Ann Turner. Rodale, 2004. 288 pages. Softbound. \$14.95. For more information or to order, go to <www.rodalestore.com>.

DNA testing can help family historians find their ancestors—and it doesn't even involve digging up dead relatives! With more than thirty years of genealogy expertise, authors Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak and Ann Turner introduce genealogists to the family research possibilities provided by genetic research (or "genetealogy" as they call it).

Trace Your Roots with DNA begins with a section on basic genealogy, followed by an introduction to genetics.

The authors answer questions about what DNA is, the difference between male and female DNA, and what DNA copying is. From there, the authors explain the different types of DNA testing currently available, the information DNA testing can provide, and the basics of interpreting this information to enhance your family tree. Also included are a glossary and listings of genealogy resources and DNA testing companies.

The authors illustrate their discussion with examples of famous mysteries solved with the help of DNA testing (ever heard of Anastasia Romanov?) and of ordinary people who have traced their roots using DNA. Starting your DNA search is as easy as swabbing the inside of your cheek and placing that sample in the mail.

World War I Memories: An Annotated Bibliography of Personal Accounts Published in English Since 1919

By Edward G. Lengel. Scarecrow Press, 2004. 304 pages. Softbound. \$50. For more information or to order, go to <www.scarecrowpress.com>.

What was life like in the trenches during World War I? When were loved ones finally reunited? How were the soldiers affected after the war was over?



Containing 1,400 references for memoirs, diaries, and letters, *World War I Memories* is a bibliography of personal accounts from soldiers and civilians in all nations associated with the Great War. Each reference includes commentary that historians, enthusiasts, and collectors will find informative and helpful in research and general knowledge needs. The references are listed alphabetically by author's last name in the chapter for the country where the work originated. The book provides a readers' guide to World War I literature and indexes that literature by title and subject.

Compiled by Edward G. Lengel, recipient of the General and Mrs. Matthew B. Ridgeway Research Grant and professor at the University of Virginia, this bibliography is a guide to the best literature of World War I, both well-known and overlooked titles.

Designer Scrapbooks with Anna Griffin: Memorable Moments Captured with Style

By Anna Griffin. Sterling Publishing Company, 2004. 144 pages. Hardcover. \$24.95. For more information or to order, go to <www.chapelleltd.com>.

Family traditions are the theme of Anna Griffin's *Designer Scrapbooks*. A designer of stationary, invitations, and decorative papers, Anna shares scrapbook layouts, design ideas, and techniques in this full-color

compilation. The designs featured in this book were inspired by family traditions and personal stories that Anna has collected from scrapbookers everywhere. One such tradition is the not-so-traditional Valentine's Days that Anna has sometimes spent with friends. She captures those good times in her Valentine's Day layouts.

Each chapter focuses on family and holiday traditions, including birthdays, Valentine's, Easter, family vacations, anniversaries, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. Layouts feature scrapbooking techniques to help you incorporate Anna's layouts into your own scrapbooks.

The book offers ways to help preserve memories along with photographs—an Easter design includes tabs that reveal hidden photos, a wedding page has a folded pocket for keeping love letters, and a birthday layout has small envelopes for storing birthday wishes. The book also includes a section on the basics of paper-crafting, templates for layouts featured in the book, and a glossary of related terms.

Avotaynu: Guide to Jewish Genealogy

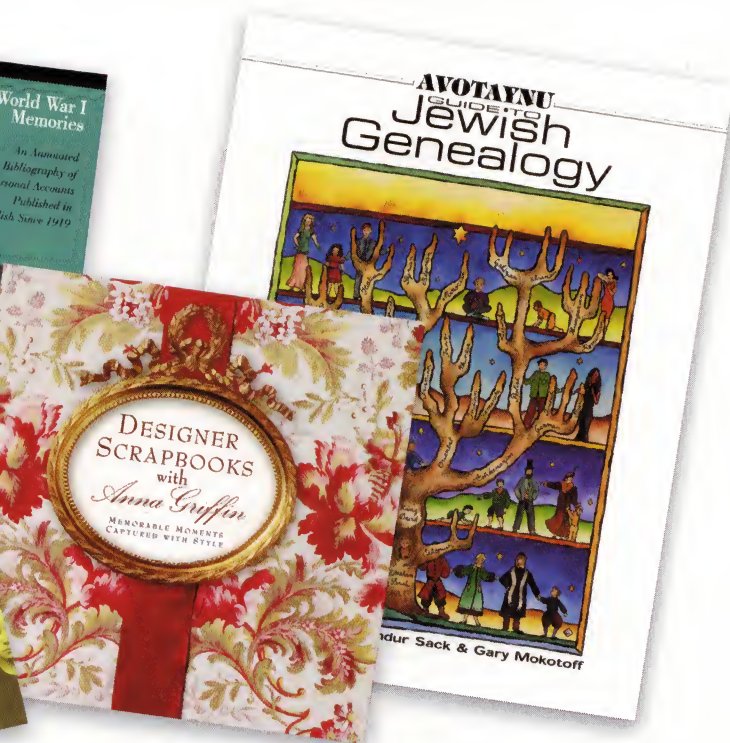
Edited by Sallyann Amdur Sack and Gary Mokotoff. Avotaynu, 2004. 608 pages. Hardcover. For more information or to order, go to <www.avotaynu.com>.

Since the early 1980s, many people have asked Sallyann Amdur Sack how they could begin researching their Jewish family history. Sack says that she has wanted "one book to place in a novice's hands with the advice 'read this and do everything it recommends'" (xiii). *Guide to Jewish Genealogy* is meant to be such a book. A compilation of the work of more than fifty leading Jewish genealogists, this book is a beginner's guide and basic reference book.

Divided into four main sections, the book guides researchers through the basics of Jewish genealogy, research on a variety of special topics, research in the United States, and research in countries where a significant number of Jews have lived in the past 200 years.

Also included are eight appendixes, three of which focus on various alphabets, hiring a professional genealogist, and engaging children in family history research. Various maps of Europe and countries and empires related to Jewish genealogy are scattered throughout the book.

For more family history books and products, visit <<http://shops.ancestry.com>>.



Power of the People

The Politics of Our Ancestors

by Candace L. Doriott

Many of our ancestors must have taken sides over the issues of their times. Finding their names on a voter registration list offers a first glimpse at the political side of their lives.

What were your ancestors' political beliefs? Did they align themselves with Democrats, Republicans, Federalists, Whigs, Progressives, or some other party? How were their lives affected by the hot issues of the day and the outcome of elections? Did they have connections with elected officials or even run for office themselves?

This season's controversies, fueled by televised hearings and tell-all books have no doubt led to stimulating conversations and debates with your friends and colleagues, and possibly even strangers. But are there ways to learn whether any of your ancestors were similarly intrigued with the doings of government? Are there sources that could tell you how involved some might have been in the politics of their day?





President Theodore Roosevelt speaks from a flag-draped stage in Brattleboro, Vermont, in 1902. © CORBIS

American history is replete with controversial issues that excited strong feelings among Americans and served to define the campaigns of political parties and candidates. At the founding of the nation, there were heated debates between loyalists and those who yearned for independence. After the colonies became a nation, there were border disputes and questions over expansion and territories and statehood. State's rights and slavery prompted violent emotional reactions, culminating in the Civil War. Certainly, in every era there were always proponents and opponents of U.S. engagement in wars. Social concerns such as suffrage and workers rights as well as local/regional issues, including building of canals and railroads, engendered intense political debate. And just as in recent times, some candidates themselves provoked strong reactions from their fellow Americans.

Citizen Rights

Many of our ancestors must have taken sides over the issues of their times. Unfortunately, it is rare that we see

anything written about the sources we can use to discover the political leanings of our forebears.

One familiar source to family researchers that may be useful is a voter registration list. Although commonly consulted by genealogists to document the residence of an ancestor, finding ancestors' names on a voter registration list offers a first glimpse at the political side of their lives. Researchers must recognize, however, that suffrage was far from universal until the late twentieth century, so the absence of an ancestor's name from the local voter registration list may mean he or she was not qualified to vote or had not satisfied local residency requirements, which in some places was more than a year.

To find voter lists that are accessible online check out Cyndi's List for links to several free sites and Ancestry.com, where numerous lists are available by subscription. Some of the links on Cyndi's List include 1855 Kansas, 1907 Cleveland, several for various California counties, and a few for other states, plus several for Britain and British Columbia, Canada. The USGenWeb is another online resource that may help you

locate voter lists. Unfortunately, California, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, and Tennessee were the only states that produced voter registration lists or poll books.

Following are some of the significant dates to be aware of when using voter lists:

- 1830 Most restrictions based on property ownership and religions had been abolished.
- 1838 Kentucky allows widows to vote.
- 1855 Only five states allow blacks to vote.
- 1870 Fifteenth amendment gives voting rights to black males (although most Southern states soon found ways to hinder this).
- 1889 Women in Wyoming gain full voting rights.
- 1920 Nineteenth amendment gives voting rights to women.
- 1924 Indian Citizenship Act gives Native Americans the right to vote.
- 1971 Twenty-sixth amendment lowers voting age to eighteen (from age twenty-one).

Political Landscapes

Whether or not your ancestors voted, they may have taken part in political discussions, or their attitudes could have been influenced by the opinions of friends, neighbors, or prominent people in their community.

To get an idea of how your ancestors may have voted in presidential elections, or at least whether they lived in a state that was strongly partisan for a particular candidate, a great website is Dave Liep's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections at <www.uselectionatlas.org/USPRESIDENT/>. This website provides information through maps or charts on election statistics from George Washington to the present. You'll find all the presidential candidates for each election along with their parties, the Electoral College and popular vote for each candidate, and graphic representations for each state on the percentage of votes that went to each candidate. For some years you'll even find county-level statistical data. Another source, although not as extensive, is Geostat Center: U.S. Presidential Election Maps, 1860–1996 at <<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/elections/maps/>>. Some examples of what you may learn here include:

- If you had family in Georgia, Mississippi, or Missouri in 1832 it's a sure thing that your ancestors voted for Andrew Jackson, since 100 percent of the popular vote in these states went for him.
- In 1892, while residents of most states debated about supporting the Democrat, Grover Cleveland, or the Republican, Benjamin Harrison, if your ancestors were in Idaho, Colorado, Kansas, Nevada, or North Dakota, they were debating between the Populist James Weaver or the Republican, and Weaver carried their state. Voters in Zavala County, Texas, and Winston County, Alabama, also favored the Populists, although the rest of their states did not agree with them.

- People loved FDR in 1936, but none more so than the voters in Mississippi and South Carolina who cast 97.1 percent and 98.6 percent, respectively, of their votes for Roosevelt. The popular vote in most states was in the range of fifty to eighty percent.

Similar information at <<http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>> is available on congressional elections, although only since 1920. You won't find any historical information on the election of state officials, although it is likely that archives of old newspapers

may prove useful for locating some data on state and local elections and the issues that fueled the campaigns.

In Their Own Voice

Of course, the best source of information on an ancestor's political beliefs is through a diary or letters. Few genealogists are lucky enough to have this kind of treasure. However, with many archives now posting some of their manuscript collections online, we can read personal accounts that reveal attitudes about elections and candidates in earlier times.

Interviews conducted for the Federal Writers' Project specifically asked about political views. You can read them online at

<<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/wpaintro/wpahome.html>>. The two excerpts that follow are examples of the personal politics expressed in digital archives.

Mrs. Louie D. Bradley of Athens, Georgia, described her politics: "My husband was old-fashioned in his ideas of what women should and should not do. One night he came home from work with a part cross and part hurt expression on his face. I was worried for he was usually in a good humor. I didn't say anything, just waited for him to speak. 'Well', he said, 'I was certainly hurt and surprised at something I heard this afternoon.' 'Why, what have I done, I said?' 'I never thought the time would come,' he said, 'when my wife would take part in politics.' Well, I didn't vote that year. After that, his views began to change and soon he was taking me to the polls every

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Election Day. I don't take any active part in politics, but I vote my convictions. I think every woman should do that. I am interested in public affairs, but I don't go wild over elections like some people. Of course, I think we all get a 'kick' over seeing our man go in."

Anders Lian [Andrew Lee] of Wisconsin, in a letter dated 25 May 1896, mentions four political parties that had candidates running and describes an event he attended. "The Prohibition Party had its State Convention here in Eau Claire a couple weeks ago. I had the opportunity to hear St. John, the ex-governor of Kansas, give a speech. Also Mrs. Gangar of Indiana. She is the best speaker I have ever heard. A farmer there said 'That was a terrific woman' and I agree with him in that. She spoke for two and a half hours on the theme 'Give us work or bread.' Over three thousand listened to her speech."

It's hard to imagine listening to a speech for two and a half hours! But even if the writer exaggerated the numbers that attended the speech, it still gives us information that unemployment and poverty were major concerns in Wisconsin in 1896. The election statistics for 1896 show that the voters of Winnebago, Waushara, Waupaca, Waukesha, and Washington counties in Wisconsin did not cast a single vote that year for either of the two major candidates, Republican William McKinley or Democrat William Bryan.

Winning an Office

Some of our ancestors did more than support a candidate or political party. They ran for office themselves or worked for the government. Data on those in the federal government is easiest to find online.

The Congressional Biographical Directory at <<http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>> allows you to search for a surname so you can do a quick check to see if any of the main lines you are tracing could have had a family member who served in Congress. If the name is common, you can limit it to a specific state. You can also list every representative or senator or limit it by party or

year. If you find a potential relative, clicking on the name brings up a biography of the individual. If your ancestor served in the House of Representatives, the Congressional History page reports the leadership of the House since 1789 and, in addition, lists the clerks and chaplains of the House.

If there is a senator in your lineage, the Senate Historical Office at <www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/generic/Senate_Historical_Office.htm> has several interesting pages. Click on Historical Statistics for a variety of lists, including annual salaries since 1789. Click on People for a list of all the senators of a state and some highlights on interesting or unusual facts.

Federal judges are another group for whom there is plenty of information available. The Federal Judicial Center has a biographical database at <www.fjc.gov/history/home.nsf>. It includes "all judges who have served on the U.S. District Courts, U.S. Circuit Courts, U.S. Courts of Appeals, and the Supreme Court since 1789." The information here is more comprehensive than the PDF list on the Supreme Court's website at <www.supremecourtus.gov/about/about.html> of its previous Justices since 1789, but

you'll want to visit the Supreme Court website as well.

At the state level, the National Governor's Association at <www.nga.org/governors/> is posting a directory online of all past governors of every state with biographical information. State websites or those of a state's library or archives, may also list previous governors.

Arizona has much of its Blue Book online at <www.azsos.gov/public_services/Arizona_Blue_Book/1999_2000/contents.htm>. It lists not only former governors but also those who held other state offices including secretaries of state, attorneys general, state treasurers, state tax commissioners, and others.

It is unfortunate that all the past members of the state legislature are not listed online. Arizona may be the only state that has posted its history manual online, but it is

*The best source of
information on an
ancestor's political
beliefs is through a
diary or letters, and
with online manuscript
collections, we can now
read many of their
personal accounts.*



President Theodore Roosevelt speaks to a large crowd from a raised platform in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1907. ©CORBIS

worth checking at a library for the official history manual of states your ancestors lived in. A new edition is generally published each time there is a new legislature, but for genealogical purposes, an old one will do.

Maine is another state that has provided online information on previous state officials at <www.maine.gov/portal/facts_history/history.html#gov>. Aside from governors, attorney generals, and secretaries of state, it lists its state Supreme Court justices since 1820. Presidents of the Maine Senate and speakers of the Maine House of Representatives are also given. Again, it is unfortunate that all the past legislators are not posted online, since being the lowest level of state government it is the level more of our ancestors had more likelihood of achieving. A good starting point to locate historic websites for various states is the American Local History Network at <www.alhn.org/index.html>.

The Political Graveyard at <<http://politicalgraveyard.com/index.html>> is an interesting source that records biographical data and the burial places of elected and appointed officials at all levels of government. Although it is a work in progress, it has almost 121,000 politicians, judges, and diplomats in its database. There are a variety of indexes and methods of searching, based on people,

places, dates, offices held, etc. The Political Graveyard also includes incomplete lists of delegates to the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, beginning in 1832 for the Democrats and 1856 for the Republicans.

Plain Folks and Politicians

Although many people today are cynical about politicians, in the times when our ancestors lived, elections and the right to vote were important to many Americans. Your family tree may include just plain folks or there may be a politician among the branches. As you research their lives, don't ignore the political side. Broaden your understanding of the cultural milieu in which they lived by consulting some of the resources suggested here. Dress up your ancestors by hanging their bones with some red, white, and blue political bunting. ✍

Candace L. Doriott, the popular opinion columnist for Genealogical Computing, has served on the board of directors of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research. She has been recognized for her excellence in writing by the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors. This article originally appeared in the October/November/December 2004 issue of GC.

Genealogy Software What's The Best Choice?

Shopping for genealogy software can be a lot like looking for the perfect vacuum cleaner. Like vacuums, most genealogy software contain some common basic functions. Also like vacuums, the true differences in the products are the attachments and features, or “bells and whistles,” that come with them. And in the same spirit as technologies that were inspired by or built to work with vacuums (such as the hair dryer or those strange vacuum-based haircutting systems), there are software programs and service products that work with genealogical databases to help you use your data and further your research.

So how do you determine which genealogical software program or product is best for you? Let's look at how to set goals when selecting software, the general types of genealogical software that are available, and some things to think about when evaluating the “bells and whistles” in genealogical software.

Determining Your Software Needs

Say you decide you need a new vacuum cleaner. Before you get to the store, you need to determine what you want the vacuum to do. Of course you want it to pick up dirt, but is the vacuum to be used inside your house? Do you need an outdoor vacuum for your garage? Do you need one that can vacuum water or one that is reversible and can be used as a blower? Perhaps you're looking for a small vacuum for your car. Once you decide the purpose for the new vacuum, you've cut down the number of vacuums that you need to consider.

This principle is also true when choosing genealogy software. The first step in selecting software is to determine the main service you want it to provide. Here are examples of needs that genealogists might express:

- George has been collecting information on his ancestors for a number of years. Now he needs software that can help him create a book as a legacy for his children and grandchildren.

If your needs don't fit neatly within one particular software type, a combination of products out there that will meet your needs.

Q & A from Software Developers

Have you ever wondered what software developers would advise users to consider when selecting software? What do developers take into account when adding bell-and-whistle features to their software? Software developers including Bruce Buzbee of *RootsMagic*, Cliff Shaw of *Family Tree Legends*, and Bob Velke of *The Master Genealogist* were posed three questions that appear here and on the following pages. Here's a summary of what they had to say:

Q What are the basic functions you believe should be available in any genealogical database software?

A Genealogy software should have the ability to:

- Completely import data from another genealogical program.
- Properly document research findings.
- Handle conflicting evidence for the same event (such as two sources that provide different birth dates for the same individual).
- Accommodate problematic data, such as an individual being known by several different names over time, sensitive family information, and long place names.
- Cite sources for relationships between parent and child.
- Document the lack of evidence, such as the need to document that although two siblings may have a common parent, they might not have both parents in common.
- Track research objectives, completed and to-do tasks, and correspondence.
- Publish to the Internet.
- Allow users to navigate intuitively.

by Matthew Helm



The most important part of software research is taking the product for a test drive.

- Janet already has her information entered in a genealogical database. She recently found a distant cousin who is doing research on the same ancestors. They need to exchange information, but the cousin does not use the same genealogical database as Janet. She needs software that can reliably share information.
- Pat is having trouble progressing in her research about some of her ancestors. She has some information about them, but she's not sure where to go next. She needs software that can guide her to useful resources to solve these problems.

Once you have your general needs in mind, you can start your software quest by looking at the types of genealogical software that are best suited to meet those needs.

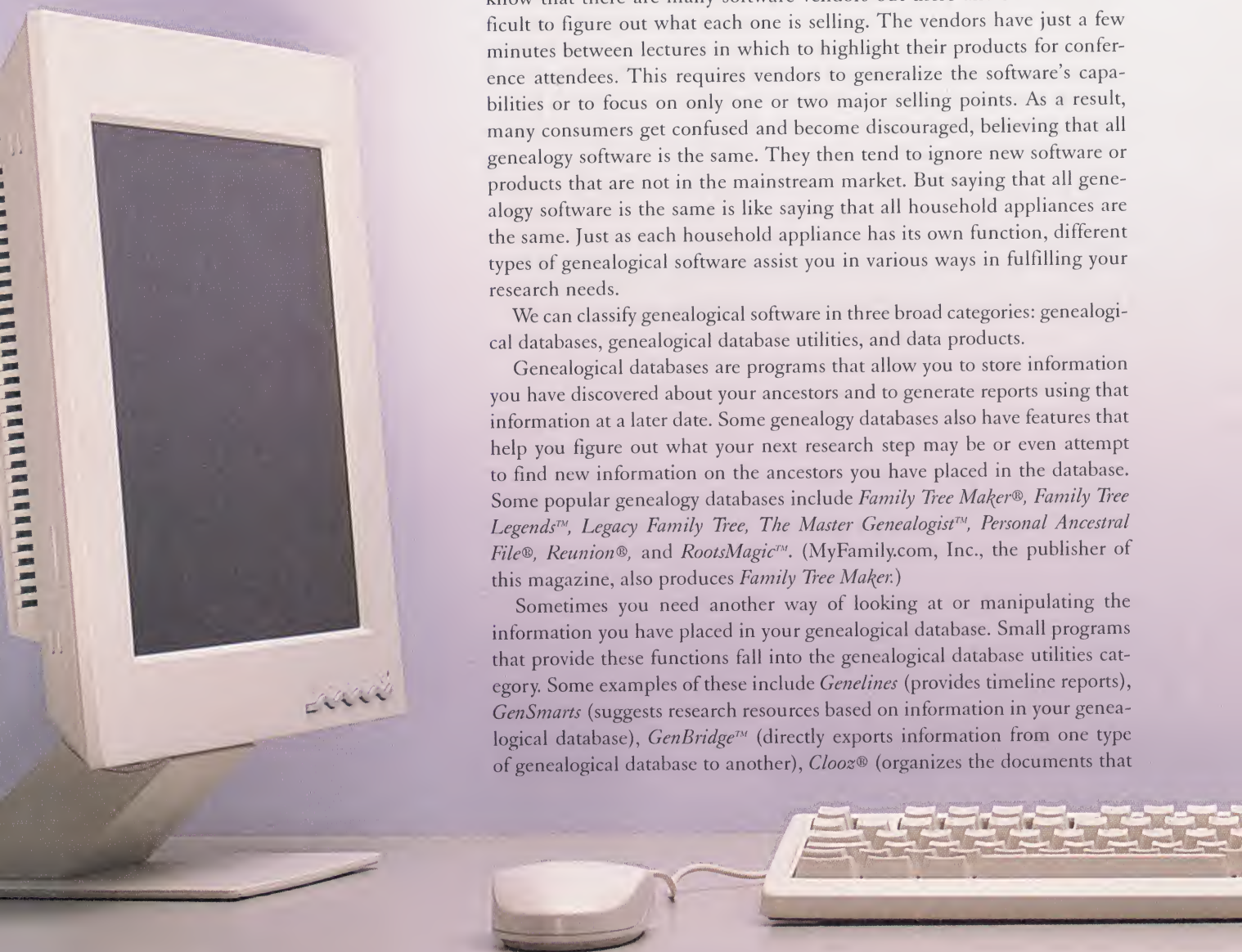
Understanding the Types of Software

If you have ever been to a vendor area of a genealogy conference, you know that there are many software vendors out there and it is often difficult to figure out what each one is selling. The vendors have just a few minutes between lectures in which to highlight their products for conference attendees. This requires vendors to generalize the software's capabilities or to focus on only one or two major selling points. As a result, many consumers get confused and become discouraged, believing that all genealogy software is the same. They then tend to ignore new software or products that are not in the mainstream market. But saying that all genealogy software is the same is like saying that all household appliances are the same. Just as each household appliance has its own function, different types of genealogical software assist you in various ways in fulfilling your research needs.

We can classify genealogical software in three broad categories: genealogical databases, genealogical database utilities, and data products.

Genealogical databases are programs that allow you to store information you have discovered about your ancestors and to generate reports using that information at a later date. Some genealogy databases also have features that help you figure out what your next research step may be or even attempt to find new information on the ancestors you have placed in the database. Some popular genealogy databases include *Family Tree Maker*®, *Family Tree Legends*™, *Legacy Family Tree*, *The Master Genealogist*™, *Personal Ancestral File*®, *Reunion*®, and *RootsMagic*™. (MyFamily.com, Inc., the publisher of this magazine, also produces *Family Tree Maker*.)

Sometimes you need another way of looking at or manipulating the information you have placed in your genealogical database. Small programs that provide these functions fall into the genealogical database utilities category. Some examples of these include *Genelines* (provides timeline reports), *GenSmarts* (suggests research resources based on information in your genealogical database), *GenBridge*™ (directly exports information from one type of genealogical database to another), *Clooz*® (organizes the documents that



you have collected), and the host of programs to convert the information in your database to something readable on the World Wide Web.

Rather than just storing or manipulating information, genealogical data products provide access to information that can help you further your research. These include products that contain images of original records or textual databases (e.g., indexes and abstracts of original records, compiled genealogies, and scanned books).

Keep in mind that the functions contained in each general type of software are not necessarily exclusive to that software type. Some genealogical databases contain functionality found in genealogical database utilities or data products. So if your needs don't fit neatly within one particular software type, that's okay. It's likely that there's a product or combination of products out there that can meet your needs.

Assessing Your Software Needs

Perhaps the easiest way to assess exactly what you want from your genealogy software is to create a list of the features you need it to perform. Such a list might include easy data entry, hourglass charts, good source control, non-traditional family structures, support for multimedia files, and the ability to export to the Web. It may also be useful to place at the top of your list the specifications of your computer. Generally, you can find this in the documentation that came with your computer or by viewing the system properties on your computer. Having this information available when shopping around helps you ensure that the software product will run on your machine.

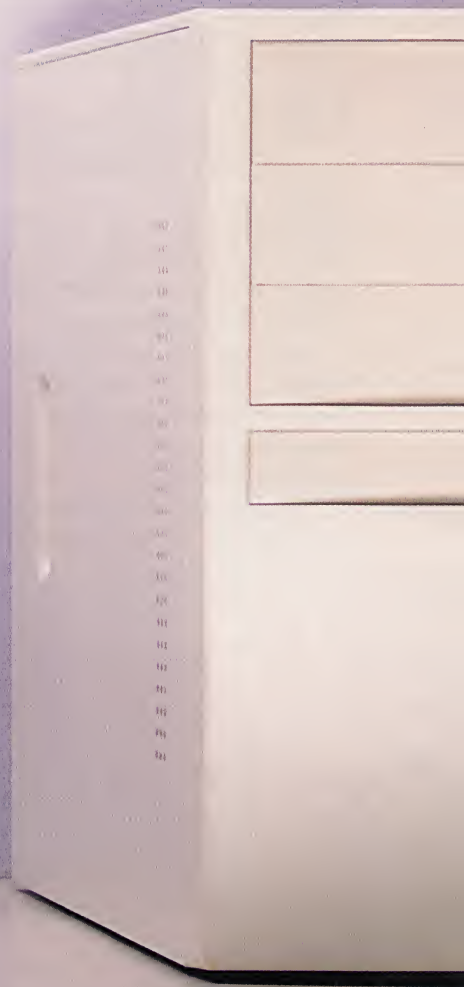
After creating the feature list, put it into a spreadsheet or word processor and then create software product columns next to each feature. This way you can put a check mark or "x" in the appropriate column for the desired feature when researching products. The following is an example of a feature list.

My Computer Specifications				
Type: IBM Compatible	Processor: Pentium III, 1.10 GHz			
Memory: 256 MB RAM	Free Disk Space: 4.3 GB			
Video Display Colors: 32 Bit Color	Screen Resolution: 1024 x 768			
CD-ROM: Yes	Operating System: Windows XP			
Modem Speed: 56K				
Feature	Product A	Product B	Product C	Product D
Price	\$29.99	\$35.99	\$15.99	Free
Easy Data Entry	X			X
Hourglass Charts		X	X	
Source Control			X	X
Multimedia Files	X			

At the bottom of the list it is useful to add a section of "cool to have" features. These are enticing features that go beyond those that meet your basic

How do you select bells and whistles that go into your product? (Bells and whistles meaning the features beyond the basic functions that should be in any genealogical database software.)

User requests drive a lot of the bells and whistles that are incorporated into these programs. But beyond that, developers often add functionality to provide flexibility for the user or to overcome some sort of limitation, making the software more user-friendly or intuitive.



needs, and you will discover them as you research individual products. For example, if Product A offers timeline charts, which is something that would be nice to have even though it is not on your necessary feature list, you can note it and track whether other products contain that feature, too. This way, if there are a couple of products that meet all of the items on your “necessary list,” you can make a decision based upon your “cool to have” list.

Armed with your features list, you’re now ready to dive into researching genealogy software products.

Researching the Products

The fun part really begins when you start researching available products. At first, you might feel a little overwhelmed by the number of products and the variety of features. But if you keep good notes on your features list and stay focused on your product goals, things will become a lot clearer as you move from product to product.

When researching products, it is useful to get a few different perspectives on a particular product. You can get these perspectives by visiting product websites, talking with developers, reading product reviews, and trying a demonstration version of the software.

Start your research by determining what is available. This is a challenging task. With all of the software acquisitions and new products available, it is hard to keep an updated list that identifies all the current software offerings and their features. Kessler’s Genealogy Software Links website at <www.lkessler.com/gplinks.shtml> offers links to product websites, reviews, and comparisons.

Once you find an interesting product, go to its product website. These sites typically list the individual features of the product and may include a Help section. Be sure to have your features list available as you visit these sites so you can complete your chart.

Pay particular attention to the Help section of the product site. Does the site have a section for frequently asked ques-

tions? Is there a community board where individuals can get their questions answered by other users of the software? Are there multiple ways of getting technical support for the product (telephone number as well as e-mail address, for example)? If it doesn’t look like the software product has good support, you might want to consider another product that has similar features but more support options.

One of the best ways to research a product is to talk directly with a developer or member of the development staff. After all, who knows the software better than the person who built it? This is especially effective if you are looking at software produced by a small company.

Some software developers attend the major genealogical conferences and even some regional ones. If a conference comes to your area, visit the exhibit hall and speak with the developers there. If not, most product websites have contact information where you can ask questions through e-mail. It might take a few days to get a response, but it is usually worth the wait.

Of course, when looking at a product’s website or chatting with the developer, you are likely to get only one side of the story. For a more general and objective viewpoint, you’ll want to read some independent reviews of the product. Consult online genealogy newsletters, print magazines (not only genealogy magazines, but also general software magazines), genealogy newspaper columns, society publications, and independent websites.

Keep in mind a few things when reading reviews. First, reviewers often must write reviews on a short turnaround, so sometimes they focus on the features that are highlighted by the developers and may miss key features or problems with the product. Second, the reviewer might have a relationship with the developer. If a review is glowing and fails to point out any drawbacks to the product, you might want to investigate further. The publication in which the review appears might also have a relationship with the developer or some interest in how the product is reviewed. The best thing to do is read



What other features should users consider when purchasing genealogical database software?



Other features these developers felt should be considered when selecting genealogical database software include:

- Upgrades that are available for download from the product website (including free upgrades with useful enhancements).

as many reviews on the product as possible. This way you receive a lot of different viewpoints and are better able to determine the quality of the product.

The most important part of software research is taking the product for a test drive. Most software developers have a trial version of their software available on their website. Some of the trial software is completely functional for a certain period of time (such as a thirty-day free trial), while trial versions of other software may have advanced features disabled. Either way, it is important to install the software and try it using your own information. Keep a list of the things that you like and don't like about it in case you decide to install a second product to compare.

Making an Educated Decision

Once you've had a chance to test the software and compare it with other products, it is time to make your decision. At this point you might already have a good idea of the product you are going to select. However, if you're still mind-wrestling between multiple products, pull out your feature list, review your software needs, and see how each product meets those needs. Also, keep in mind the experience that you had in testing the software and in visiting the product website. If you are having trouble deciding between two products, it might come down to selecting the product that offers the best help or community support.

Whatever product you pick, you don't have to fear that you are making a lifetime commitment. New products come out regularly, and bells and whistles change on current products. But armed with your features list and software needs plus your past experiences selecting software, you can be sure you're choosing wisely for your next piece of genealogical software. ☞

Matthew Helm is the co-founder of FamilyToolbox.net, Inc. and author of Genealogy Online For Dummies (IDG Books Worldwide, 2001).

Bells and Whistles

Family Tree Maker www.familytreemaker.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedigree view navigation • Automatic searching of Ancestry.com content • Bookmarks to mark frequently used individuals • Three-generation family view
Family Tree Legends www.familytreelegends.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GenGrams communication system • SmartMatching of data from other Family Tree Legends databases • Real-time Internet backup • Real-time Internet publishing
Heredis www.myheredis.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-D family visualization • Detailed source management • Family wheel charts • Windows and Mac OS X versions
Legacy www.legacyfamilytree.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source clipboard function • Two family files open simultaneously • Query by example • History list tracks last 200 individuals displayed
Reunion www.leisterpro.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works with Macintosh OS X natively • Flexible numbering systems • Embedded URLs in any text fields • Source usage report
RootsMagic www.rootsmagic.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SourceWizard and interactive problem list • Fully customizable wall charts • Multiple database support with drag and drop • Notes for every fact
The Master Genealogist www.whollygenes.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct import of files from other genealogy databases • Work with other individual's data sets without merging data • Record shared events and record witnesses to events • Generate reports in other languages

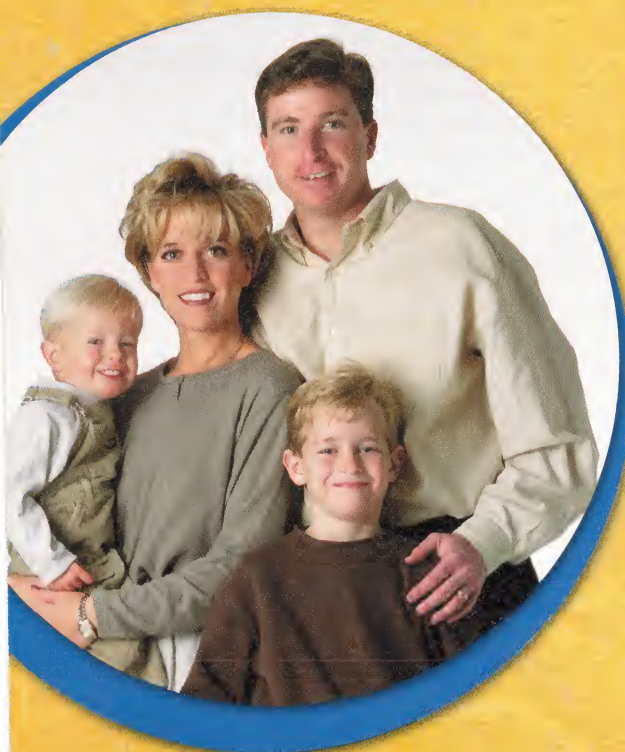
- Third-party tools and companion programs that extend the abilities of the software or work directly with information contained within the software without the need for any kind of data conversion.
- Free online or phone support, and direct communication with developers.

- An active user community that can help users with the software.
- Good GEDCOM support.





the **MAKING MOST of MyFamily.com**



A MyFamily.com website gives your family a virtual home where even the furthest-flung relatives can be brought up-to-date with current family events.

by Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A.

Point. Click. Send.

Computers and the Internet have revolutionized the way families communicate. E-mail, Voice Chat, and webcams make it easy for people to keep in touch. In days-gone-by, a family gathering often meant a Sunday dinner at Grandma's house or a leisurely visit with a favorite aunt who lived nearby. But today, with so many families living a long distance from one another, using technology to connect with kin is an attractive alternative.

One of the most convenient and popular communication tools is a family website. And with a private, password-protected site through MyFamily.com, connecting with family is just a few clicks of a mouse away.

MyFamily.com, Inc. is the leading provider of private websites for families around the world. The company is focused on connecting families with their histories and one another, providing both free and paid subscription services through its network of Internet properties, including Ancestry.com, Genealogy.com, and RootsWeb.com.

I started my first MyFamily.com site—The ALAFFFA Family Web Site—in 1998. ALAFFFA is an acronym for the surnames of my mother and her siblings: Abbott, Lizanov, Alzo, Figlar, Figlar, Figlar, and Augenstein. I upgraded to a Super site in 2003 for the unlimited storage space and domain name <www.alafffa.com>. In May 2003, I created a second MyFamily.com site, “The Mil’poš-Lutina-Hanigovce Web Site” a village-based group site for descendants of immigrants from Mil’poš, Hanigovce, Olejnikov, Lutina and nearby villages in Saris County, Slovakia (former Saros, Hungary). Through these sites I have expanded the way my immediate family communicates and have collaborated with a number of other researchers who share similar family history goals and interests.

It may be that you are among the millions of users already taking advantage of the easy-to-use services at MyFamily.com, or perhaps you have seen the advertisements, but haven't had the chance to explore the benefits of having your own family website. Whatever the case, the following information will help you make the most of MyFamily.com.

Why Set Up a MyFamily.com Site

MyFamily.com offers your family the opportunity to connect and strengthen family bonds. The service is easy, private, and secure, and provides an “online home” for your family—a place to meet with loved ones as often as you'd like. Unlike public websites, your MyFamily site is password-protected so only you and those you invite to participate can access it.

With step-by-step instructions and pre-formatted templates, even the novice computer user can log on to share news, photos, or other important family information. A MyFamily.com website gives



Illustration by Rob Davis

your family a virtual home where even the furthest-flung relatives can be brought up-to-date with current family events.

Creating Your Site

Creating a family website on MyFamily.com can be accomplished in a few easy steps. Start by going to <www.myfamily.com> and selecting the Create My Site Now tab. You will then see a screen with the following site options:

- **Option A: Choose Free Trial.** This option lets you try out a Standard site free for thirty days. You can sponsor the site at any time by clicking the free trial countdown in the upper right-hand area of your site.
- **Option B: Choose Standard Site.** A Standard site enables you to have unlimited site members, all of whom will receive e-mail accounts. You will also have 100 MB of storage space, with no popup ads.
- **Option C: Choose Super Site with Personal Domain.** This option provides a personal domain (e.g., www.brownfamily.com), with 500 MB of space, and offers e-mail accounts for each site member at your domain (e.g., jimbrown@brownfamily.com) without any banner or popup ads.

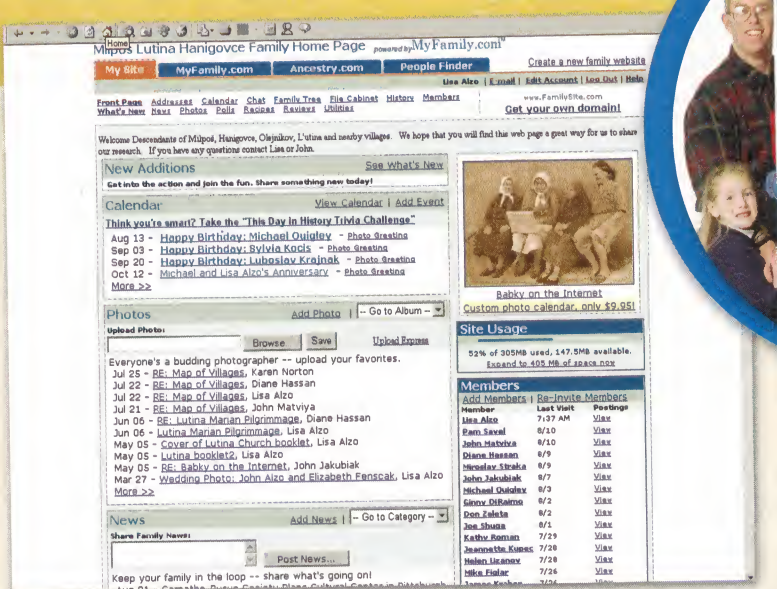
Once you choose the site type that works for you and your family, you are taken to a screen where you will need to provide basic information about yourself and select a required username and password. You must have a working e-mail address to set up your site. When you create a site, you become the Site Administrator.

Next, you will choose a website name (for example, the "Alzo Family Web Site") and the type of site, such as Immediate Family, Extended Family, Club or Group, and so forth.

Then you can begin adding members by typing in their names and e-mail addresses. A temporary username and password will be sent to each user via e-mail to those you have invited, along with a standard invitation that highlights the purpose of the site and the features available. If you do not know someone's e-mail address, leave that field blank. MyFamily.com will notify you of that person's temporary username and password so that you can invite them later by telephone.

When you continue you will see a message informing you that your site has been created. The names and e-mail addresses of those you invited to participate in the site will also appear. You may add new members to the site at any time by clicking the Add Members button on the main page of your site.

Now that you have created your site, you are responsible for managing the site and helping your site members to



participate. You will be responsible for creating and maintaining a successful site. As Administrator you will add members and exercise other privileges such as the ability to change your site name, personalize your invitation messages, designate what features will be available to members, and customize the site's appearance with different colors or themes.

What Can You Do with Your MyFamily.com Site?

Each MyFamily.com site is designed around a generic template that offers you the following standard features:

Address Book. This searchable, electronic rolodex alphabetically stores the most current contact information for your site members.

Calendar. The calendar is the central place to enter all of your important family dates (e.g., birthdays, anniversaries, vacations, etc.), so your family can keep track of these special events, using reminders that you can set up in your individual account. It is also the place to schedule chat sessions with members.

Chat. This easy-to-use communication tool allows multiple family members to converse online at the same time without having to pay long-distance telephone charges. The chat room is private and only members of your website can participate.

Family Tree. This feature enables you to post your family tree information either by creating one directly on the website (using *Online Family Tree*) or uploading one that was created with your favorite family tree software program and saved in the GENEalogical Data COMMUNICATIONS (GEDCOM) format. This format allows genealogy files to be opened in virtually any genealogy software program. This feature also provides you with the option to submit your family tree to the Ancestry World Tree database at Ancestry.com.



File Cabinet. This section is the storage area for electronic versions of such items as family newsletters, reunion invitations, or itineraries. You can upload standard documents created with word processing software, PDFs, or spreadsheets. Video files and sound clips (created in many popular formats) can also be added here.

History. This area is a great place to record your own family's memories and stories and enable them to be shared by current family members and preserved for future generations. For example, post a family poem or words of remembrance written for a departed family member.

News. This is the central place you can quickly let the members of your website know of any important events or information (e.g., births, weddings, or graduation announcements, and any other newsworthy events).

Photos. This section serves as an electronic photo album where you can share photos (complete with title, date, and description) of the newest grandchild or your most recent family reunion. The recommended format for posting images is JPEG.

Polls. This feature enables you to get your family's opinion on just about any topic, from who will win the next Super Bowl to where the family would like to go for their next reunion. You simply type in a question and a selection of answers.

Recipes. Here you can easily share the recipes for those favorite dishes or treats your family members prepare for birthdays, holidays, or other special occasions.

Reviews. Use this section to post personal opinions and ideas about books, movies, television shows, vacation spots, etc. and to get further acquainted with other site members by finding out their interests and hobbies.

Personalize Your Site

While MyFamily.com follows a standard format for adding and updating information, there are various ways to add a personal touch to your site.

Site Features. Choose the features that are appropriate for your family or group by using the Features Administration page. For example, if your family is not interested in posting or reading reviews, you can simply turn the Reviews section off from display on your site.

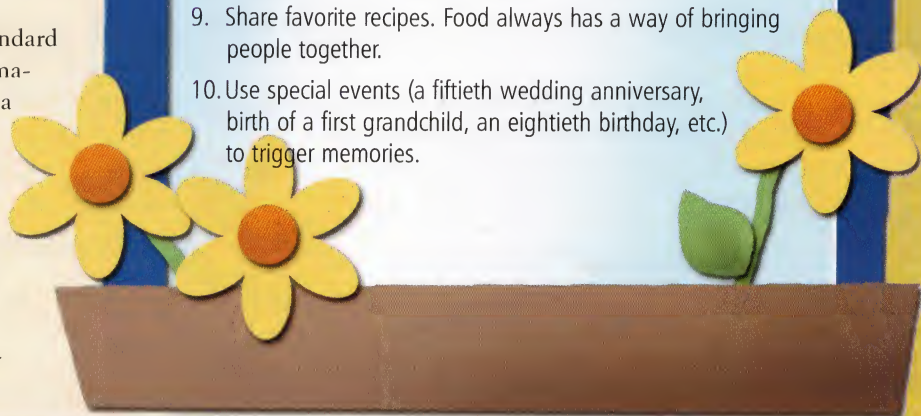
Edit Your Invitation/Re-invitation Messages. Personalize your invitation message, and also the re-invitation message, which can be used to contact site members who have not logged into the site for more than fourteen days.

Member Rights. You may change a member's status on the member rights page. The following types are available: guest, user, and administrator. "Guests" can log onto the site and view all content but are not allowed to add or change anything. (This is appropriate for young children.) "Users" have login privileges and the ability to add content and files to the site. If you choose, you can allow other members of your site to have administrator status as well.

Site Appearance. While the basic structure of a MyFamily.com site is set to a default, there are a few changes you can implement to personalize its display. For example, use the Color Theme Selector to reflect your favorite colors or to apply a patriotic or holiday theme. Another option is to change the site's cover photo. Use one that best represents

Ten Tips for a Successful MyFamily.com Site

1. Invite as many members as possible.
2. Encourage participation with follow-up messages, announcements, and re-invitations.
3. Hold new member tutoring sessions on specific site features.
4. Organize your site using folders for news and file cabinet items, as well as categorized albums for photos.
5. Keep the site up-to-date. Add fresh material at least once per week.
6. Find common interests (genealogy, sports, family stories, and old photos) among members and post items accordingly.
7. Make your site visually attractive with photos; use a "mystery photo" to keep members guessing.
8. Create a family newsletter from site items and send it out in time for the holidays or your next reunion.
9. Share favorite recipes. Food always has a way of bringing people together.
10. Use special events (a fiftieth wedding anniversary, birth of a first grandchild, an eightieth birthday, etc.) to trigger memories.



your family, such as your latest reunion photograph or a family logo. You may want to keep several cover photos and rotate them.

Customized Front Page. A custom Front Page is created just like a News item, but will appear on the site's Front Page just under where the scrolling announcements normally appear, above "New Additions" and the site photo. You can maintain multiple Front Pages.

If You Build It, Will They Come?

There are two main keys to creating a successful MyFamily website: 1) invite as many family members as possible, and 2) get them to participate regularly on the site.

The more members you invite to your site the more interesting and active it will become. The most successful sites generally have between ten and twenty members.

Another option is to have more than one website representing different branches of your family, or a separate site for close friends, classmates, associates, or other specialty groups to which you belong.

As administrator, you should be available via telephone to walk a new member through the site features during his or her initial visit. If this is not possible, have them experiment with the features on the site, then log off and call you with any questions, or use the Chat feature on the site to provide instructions. You can even schedule an orientation session (using the Calendar feature) to instruct several new members at the same time.

Each site member should be encouraged to complete a Member Profile page, which lists their contact information, birthday, hobbies, and other pertinent details. The information from the completed profiles will also transfer automatically to other site features such as the Calendar and Address Book. (Note: All information on your family site is accessible only to site members and is kept strictly confidential.)

MyFamily.com also has an extensive system of help files that should be able to answer your technical support questions. To access the database, simply click Help in the upper right-hand corner or the Help/FAQ at the bottom of any page on your site. Type your question in the "My question is..." field and then click the Search button. You can also e-mail customer support if the help files do not address your question.

Once They Visit, Will They Return?

Inviting members is not enough. Your site content is critical to keeping the members actively logging in on a regular basis. Keep their interest with a dynamic, interesting site.

There are a number of ways to make your MyFamily.com site more than just a site with people's addresses and a few family photographs. Remember, the success of your family or group site depends upon site participation and content. Below are a few ways I have encouraged participation on the sites I administer.

News. Family members are encouraged to post items here on a regular basis—everything from birth announcements to awards or notable achievements. I periodically post a message asking family members to submit items for inclusion in the printed family newsletter that I prepare four times per year. This gives everyone an opportunity to share news on a regular basis online and in the newsletter.

Photos. I post a monthly "mystery" photo on the ALAFFFA site as a fun family participation activity. Everyone guesses who is in the photo and when and where it was taken. I then post the answer to the previous month's "mystery photo" when I upload the next month's photo. Some of the more popular photos have been of my grand-

Suggestions for Funding Your MyFamily.com Site

- Accept voluntary donations from the site participants.
- Ask each member to contribute a small amount. For example, if you have thirty members and a Standard site, it would only cost each member one dollar per year, or less than four dollars per member per year to upgrade to a Super site.
- Take contributions from each family unit. For example, if you have six families each family pays five dollars for the Standard site.
- Ask families or members to take turns sponsoring/renewing the site.
- If you have a family reunion each year, and charge per person, you can build the cost of the website into the reunion fee.

Common Types of MyFamily.com Sites

Immediate Family	Classmates/Alumni
Extended Family	Business Associates
Club or Group	Common Interests
Cousins	General
Friends	Instructional Support
Genealogical Research	

mother or grandfather in their younger years, or childhood images of the parents of some of the younger generation.

Chat. I've used the Chat feature to schedule monthly "meetings" with my co-administrators of the Mil'poš-Lutina-Hanigovce website. I have also used the Who's Online feature for informal or spontaneous contact with others who have logged on to the site.

File Cabinet. I've utilized the file cabinet for storing audio files of oral history interviews, video clips of family events and reunions, copies of our quarterly family newsletter, and spreadsheets of data uncovered during family history research.

History. This is where I post any updates on the family genealogy I uncover through research. Also, one of my latest projects is to upload profiles of ALAFFFA members included in current and past family newsletters. I use the Add Files link to enhance each posting with a picture of the person profiled and also audio and/or video clips that help tell his or her story.

Polls. I've used the polls to ask family members on the ALAFFFA site to vote for our family reunion themes.

Recipes. I've posted many recipes for favorite dishes that my Slovak grandma used to prepare, including her delicious buns, her Paska (Easter) bread, and Holupky (stuffed cabbage). For visual reference, I've posted a corresponding photo of each dish in the Photos section. Many of my cousins have remarked that these postings prompted them to prepare some of the dishes.

Keys to Participation

To make your MyFamily.com website enjoyable and rewarding to participants, you may want to consider the following guidelines:

- Visit the site one or more times each week.
- When you are notified that another member has added something new to the site, check it out as soon as possible.
- Post something new on every visit to the site, even if it is just a brief note.
- Never post something offensive to other site members.
- Involve the younger generation. Connecting with relatives on a regular basis helps to develop strong family ties.
- Make MyFamily.com your Home Page.

Paying for the Site

As the site sponsor, you may choose to pay for the site subscription yourself. However, since everyone enjoys the benefits of the site, you may decide to share your subscription costs with family members. Some suggestions include asking for a small contribution from each member, voluntary donations, or building the cost into your reunion budget. The decision to ask your site members to share in

the financial responsibility will depend on the number of site participants, and/or each individual's or family unit's financial situation or interest.

Go Beyond Your Own Family

Another way to make the most of MyFamily.com is to create a site for descendants of immigrants who came from a particular village or area. This is a good way to go beyond your own family's genealogy and establish a community research protocol.

I created a village-based website after corresponding with a fellow researcher whose ancestors came from the same village as my maternal grandmother. After months of sharing attachments by e-mail, I suggested we use MyFamily.com as our research base. The site grew as we brought others into our research circle, including the current mayor of Milpoš, Slovakia.

Whether you create a family or research group website, the keys to its success are member participation, frequent postings, and fun and interesting content.

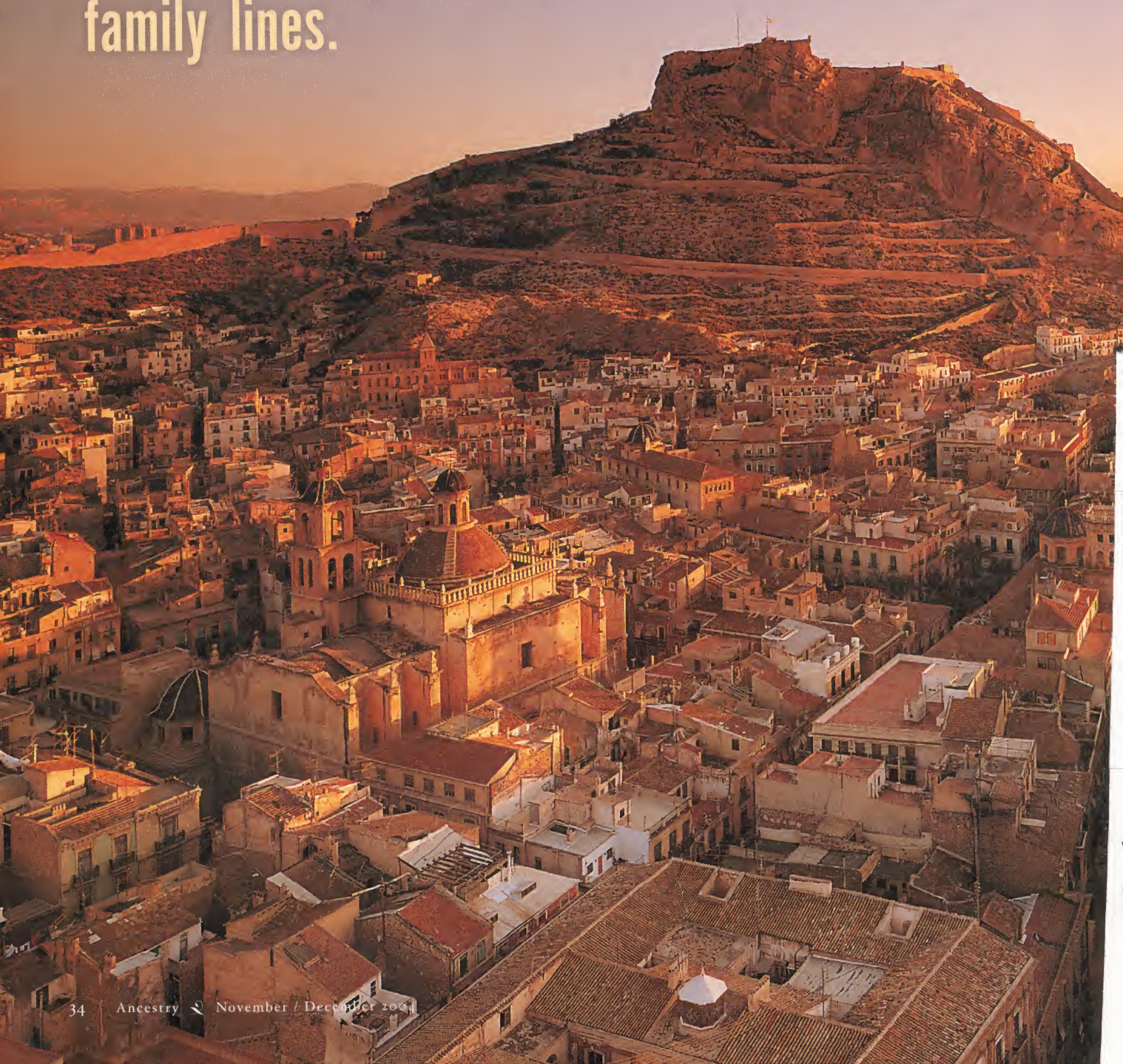
Now our website is a place to share family trees, photographs, and other data, as well as work on collaborative research projects. Just as our Slovak ancestors tended to settle in cluster communities when they first arrived, we have built our own "virtual" cluster community.

Whether you create a family or research group website, the keys to its success are member participation, frequent postings, and fun and interesting content. With a little persistence and creative thinking it is easy to make your MyFamily.com site more than just a place to store addresses, post occasional news items or photos, or list birthdays and events, but rather a simple and affordable way to have a virtual reunion with your family every day! ☺

Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A., is an instructor of genealogy and writing courses. She is the author of Three Slovak Women (Gateway Press) and the recipient of the 2002 Mary Zirin Prize given by the Association for Women in Slavic Studies. Lisa teaches Basic and Intermediate Slovak and Eastern European, and Great Lakes Region Research for MyFamily.com, Inc. and often speaks at national conferences, genealogical and historical societies.



Spain's wealth of records
can give even a novice
researcher the hope
of successfully tracing
family lines.



An aerial photograph of a coastal city in Spain, likely Alicante, taken during the golden hour of sunset. The image shows a dense urban area with many buildings, a beach, and the sea. The sky is a mix of orange and yellow, and the city lights are beginning to glow.

Beginning Spanish Research

by George and Peggy Hill Ryskamp

Millions of document pages exist in Spanish archives, a reality that is both enticing and intimidating for anyone searching for Hispanic ancestors. But understanding how to access and use Spain's wealth of records can give even a novice researcher—working from either side of the ocean—the promise of successfully tracing family lines.

One challenge all researchers face is finding information about that key ancestor, the immigrant who left his or her birthplace in Spain and came to the United States. As a further challenge, frequently the immigrant went first to another, usually Spanish-speaking country, such as Argentina, Cuba, or Mexico.

Four key pieces of information are vital in tracing ancestral lines from Spain: 1) the person's name, 2) place of birth, 3) at least approximate date of birth, and 4) if possible, parents' names. The place of birth is pivotal as it gives the place to search in Spain, where nearly all records are housed on a local level.

Church Records and Government Vital Records

Catholic baptism, marriage, and burial records often include the place of birth of one or more generations. (Remember, nearly all Spanish were Roman Catholic.)

Alicante, Spain

Suggested Reading

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Many times, church records made at the time of a significant family event before a trusted confidant such as the priest will give more specific details than a record of the same event made in the more formal setting of a public building. This is especially true for marriage records, where often the bride and groom needed to establish proof of being Catholic by naming the parish where they were baptized as infants.

The article "Catholic Marriage Records," published in the May/June 2002 issue of *Ancestry Magazine*, is online at <www.ancestry.com/library/view/ancmag/6049.asp>. It can help you find more information about these records and how to locate them. You'll find that marriage records for Latin America regularly give the town or parish of birth.

Sources for Immigrant Information

Passenger lists can be a valuable source for immigrants arriving at U.S. seaports. After 1892 they provide the place of birth, but before that time information on them is more limited. A good description of these records and their indexing appears in a recent article in *Ancestry Magazine*. ("Speeding up Your Search for Immigrants" by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak [May/June 2004] is online at <www.ancestry.com/library/view/ancmag/9136.asp>.) For those immigrants crossing from Mexico and Canada, U.S. border-crossing records give similar information. Many of these records are available through the National Archives and most are arranged alphabetically.

In Spain, the Archivo General de las Indias, located in the former port city of Seville, has an extensive series of Spanish passenger lists and licenses covering the years before 1790. Those from the years 1500 through 1599 have been published and are available in many large libraries in the United States. Those of the next two centuries are available at Archivos Españoles en Red online at <www.aer.es>. Be prepared for challenges with this non-user-friendly site. However, if you are certain your ancestor left Spain during this time period, the results could prove worth the effort.

An increasingly significant source for tracing Spanish immigrants is the Immigrant Ancestor Project, a product of the Center for Family History and Genealogy at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. With the recognition that immigrant information is more complete in the country of origin, several student interns have spent weeks at a time in Spanish archives for the past three years locating and retrieving documentation relating to immigration from Spanish archives.



While the scope of the project will extend throughout Europe, copies have already been made of thousands of emigration documents from sources as varied as a small municipal archives in Llanes, in northern Spain, to the Spanish national archives for the twentieth century housed in Alcalá de Henares. Complete passport collections from the archives of Cadiz and Santander have been scanned, extracted, and are now available to search online at <http://immigrants.byu.edu>, with more being generated daily. The value of these records, generated by the immigrant at the time of his or her departure, speaks for itself.

Where in Spain?

Finding the name of a location quickly leads to the question: Where in Spain is this? Approximately equal in size to the state of California, Spain varies dramatically geographically, and the possibilities for your ancestor's home could range from the rugged mountains of the northern Basque country to the flat, hot southern stretches of Andalucía, to anywhere in between.

A good Spanish atlas will most often give an answer. Another good source for finding place names is a detailed road map, although the place name may have changed

since the time your ancestor lived there. Another excellent location source is the *Madoz* geographical dictionary, a sixteen-volume set published by Pascual Madoz 1849–1852 and reprinted in 1993 by the Centro Cultural Santa Ana in Almedralejo, Spain. This comprehensive series describes nearly every town, village, and hamlet in the mid-nineteenth century, giving critical information such as civil and ecclesiastical boundaries and also daily life details like the number of houses, types of crops, and how often the mail was delivered.

The Map of Spain

The Iberian Peninsula, located south of England, contains the countries of Spain and Portugal. Historically, perhaps as a natural result of its mountainous nature, Spain divided itself into sixteen regions: Aragón, La Rioja, Cataluña, Asturias, Galicia, Castilla la Vieja, Castilla la Nueva, Extremadura, Andalucía, the Basque Country, Valencia, Leon, Navarra, Murcia, the Balearic Islands, and

Spanish History Timeline

200 BCE Initial Roman invasion of Iberian Peninsula	38 BCE Romans complete conquest of Iberian Peninsula, Roman-era documents date to this time	About 100 Christianity established and earliest bishoprics created	About 400 Visigothic invasions mark fall of Roman Empire	500–711 Visigothic kings rule Iberian Peninsula	711–718 Muslim Moors conquer Iberian Peninsula excluding northernmost mountains	718 Christian reconquest of Iberian Peninsula begins	1085 Alonso VI reconquers Toledo
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the Canary Islands. Each of these regions are distinctive in geography, climate, and local culture.

Today, however, Spain is divided into fifteen autonomous communities. While some of these have maintained the same name and geographic boundaries as their historic counterparts, others have been merged or been given new names. Remember this distinction when looking for a certain location on a map or for a town based on family tradition as to its region.

Spanish place names include the *lugar* (place, hamlet, or village); *municipio* (town or municipality); *parroquia* (parish); and *provincia* (province). Any of these could be given as a place of birth, residence, or marriage, particularly several years later in a government or church record. Civil divisions for an ancestral hometown may not necessarily be the same as the ecclesiastical divisions. For example, a person living in the province of Salamanca may not be from the diocese of that name, but from that of Ciudad Rodrigo.

One family found information on its grandparents, who were immigrants to the United States via Cuba, described in a civil marriage record as coming from Carballo, La Coruña, Spain. Because of an oral tradition, the family was believed to have originated from the region of Galicia. The correct Carballo was located on a map from several other towns of the same name. From the *Madoz* dictionary the family learned that Carballo pertains to the diocese of Santiago de Compostela, where they then went to look at parish records. In searching Carballo's parish records, however, they found no family members during the appropriate dates nor any families at all with the same surname. A quick search of a local map revealed the explanation: Carballo is the name of not only a town with a local parish, but also a municipality containing twelve separate Catholic parishes in which Carballo is the capital. After searching

**Civil registration
began in Spain
in 1870, in records
that have been
described as "the
best in the world"
because of their
incredible detail.**

through local censuses (*padrones*) in the Carballo municipal archives, the right family was located on a page for the hamlet of Rus, one of the twelve parishes in the municipality.

What Records Are Available?

This example of using censuses also illustrates the importance of knowing what records may exist. In general, the registers of Spain are comprehensive and excellent, and even in cases where some have been destroyed (generally the result of damage during the Napoleonic invasion [1808–14] and the Spanish Civil War [1936–39]), family lines can still be traced if a researcher is aware of existing record options.

Church Records

Thanks to a mandate by the Council of Trent in the 1560s, the worldwide Catholic Church has maintained records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths since approximately that time. In Spain many parishes begin even a generation earlier. While parish records vary in quality depending on the time period and competency of the local priest who maintained them, they remain the backbone of Spanish genealogy research.

The Genealogical Society of Utah has microfilmed the parish records in about one third of the dioceses of Spain. These parish records can be located online through the Family History Library Catalog at <www.familysearch.org>, and copies of microfilm can be ordered through local Family History Centers. Note that in many dioceses only some of the parish records were filmed. If records for a parish are not found on microfilm, check in the *Guía de la Iglesia en España* (Madrid: Oficina de Estadística, 1951), with supplements in 1955, 1956, and 1957. Among these four volumes, parish records are described in detail for about ninety percent of all Spanish parishes. The CD version of

1248	1369	1469	1492	1519–56	1556–98	1700	1759–88
Ferdinand III reconquers Seville	Establishment in Valladolid of Chancillería Real for all appellate cases	Isabelle and Ferdinand marry; Crowns of Castille and Aragon unite to create modern Spain	Fall of Granada, last Moorish stronghold in Spain to Christians; Jews expelled from Spain	Reign of Charles V; Catholic ordered parishes to maintain baptism and marriage registers	Reign of Phillip II, who establishes first national censuses and the national archives at Simancas	Charles II's death starts War of Spanish Succession	Reign of Charles III, who creates municipal cemeteries, requires parental consent for minor marriages, and takes censuses

this work, published in Barcelona in 2000, is more complete but not readily available. One caution in using this guide, however, is that in some instances parishes will not be mentioned nor properly described. Never assume that records do not exist based on information found or not found in the *Guia de la Iglesia*.

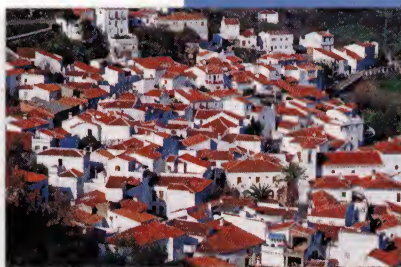
At first, the format and unfamiliar handwriting of a parish entry may seem daunting to a beginning researcher, but with patience and a few guidelines these records will come to feel familiar and enjoyable. Chapter nine of the book *Finding Your Hispanic Roots* (GPC, 1997) gives a detailed discussion of researching in parish records. The book *Spanish Records Extraction*, originally printed by the LDS Church to help those doing parish-record extraction and now available online at <<http://immigrants.byu.edu>>, contains an excellent series of lessons on how to read Spanish-language parish records.

The format of repetitive words and phrases in a parish record can be used as a structure to help puzzle out difficult handwriting in the remaining entry. For example, the date (usually given at the beginning) will include a limited number of word options and can give clues in deciphering particularly challenging letters. Some phrases will quickly become signals of important information to follow. *Baptize solemnemente a* (I solemnly baptized) or a similar phrase will precede the name of the child being baptized; *casé y velé en facie iglesia* (married and blessed before the church) is generally the phrase used before the names of the bride and groom in a marriage entry.

The names of parents (and grandparents, which are often given) should be carefully noted along with their places of origin (*natural de*) and residence (*vecino de*). The names of the *padrinos*, or godparents, should also be noted, as often they may be related or come from a neighboring town that might turn out to have family members in it. This practice is especially helpful in cases where grandparents' names are not given.

Government Records

Spaniards have been inveterate record keepers since the Middle Ages. Among extensive government records a



researcher could possibly find documents relating to court cases, emigration, taxation, business permits, laws and regulations, and much more. Indexes to many of these from the Spanish National Archives can be found online at <www.aer.es>. However, the most important government records for the beginning researcher are found locally.

Civil Registration and Censuses

Civil registration began in Spain in 1870, in records the British genealogist Gerald Hamilton Edwards described as "the best in the world" because of their incredible detail. Unfortunately, none of these records have been microfilmed,

1785	1808–14	1810–21	1832	1835–39	1853	1839–70	1869–73
Archives of the Indies created in Seville, houses colonial records transferred from national archives at Simancas	Napoleonic invasion and reign of Joseph Bonaparte; extensive record destruction	Loss of most American colonies	Government seizes convents, monasteries, and other Catholic assets; National Historical Archives in Madrid created	First Carlist War	Period of emigration from Galicia, the Basque Provinces, and Andalucía to South America and the USA begins	Municipal civil registration	First Spanish Republic

Genealogy in Spain on the Internet

www.familysearch.org

Contains many entries from Spanish parishes; the FHLC gives access to thousands of microfilmed parish registers as well as other records for Spain.

www.saur-wbi.de

World Biographical Index on this site indexes hundreds of thousands of Spanish biographies which can then be viewed at a Family History Center on microfiche or at many libraries online.

www.aer.es

Provides contact information and collections description for government archives in Spain and an excellent index to records from several of the national archives of Spain.

www.ancestros.com.mx

Reference materials and databases relating to Spanish-speaking countries worldwide.

www.bne.es

Provides access to the catalog of the Spanish National Library.

www.irargi.org

Click under "Badator" for a spectacular index of documents relating to the Basque provinces in Spain. New material added regularly.

www.rae.es

Official site of the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language under "*diccionarios*" provides definitions of Spanish words, facsimile copies of official dictionaries published during the 1800s.

www.conferenciaepiscopal.es/dioceseis/

Contact and other information about Spanish Catholic dioceses.

http://familyhistory.byu.edu

Reference materials about Spanish research.

http://immigrants.byu.edu

Growing database of names of individual Spanish emigrants and reference materials.

www.miradorvr.com/mapa.htm

Maps of Spain and much more.

www.ancestry.com

Large genealogical database.

www.elanillo.com

Reference materials and databases relating to Spanish speaking countries worldwide.

www.cyndislist.com

Look under "Spain" for many links relating to Spanish research.

www.genealogia-es.com

WorldGenWeb page for Spain.

and they can often be consulted only in the local court office (*juzgado*) or in small towns in the city hall, in many cases only with the permission of a local judge. Generally, letters written from the United States to the *juzgado* requesting document copies are answered within two to six months. Municipal civil registers covering the years 1839–69 may be found in many municipal archives as well.

Census records are generally found in municipal archives, as described above in the example from Carballo. Although not a locator tool like U.S. federal censuses, they often contain excellent detailed descriptions of complete families, even during the eighteenth century. A national census known as the *Catastro de Ensenada*, taken between 1749 and 1752 in the areas under the control of the crown of Castile, is microfilmed for most towns and available worldwide through local Family History Centers.

Notarial Records

Notaries in Spain perform much the same function as a contract attorney in the United States, drafting wills, marriage contracts, land sale documents, guardianship papers, death inventories, and much more. For hundreds of years, notaries have preserved these documents, an official function much like that of the county recorder in the United States. The resulting chronologically arranged bound books are generally housed today in a provincial historical archive in each of Spain's fifty provinces.

The experience of working with the loosely structured format and legal terminology of notarial records can be both frustrating and intimidating, much the same to a beginning researcher as working with court or land records in the United States. Notarial documents, however, will pay dividends to the persistent researcher. Not only do they validate and flesh out information found in parish records, but in the event that these have been destroyed or are missing information, notarial research can provide the key to overcoming challenging family connections.

For the period from 1611 to 1696, the parish marriage records of Cantalpino, in the province of Salamanca, no longer exist or do not give parents' names. Notarial records, particularly wills and marriage contracts outlining family lineages in the process of bequeathing goods from one generation to another, have allowed the Sanchez family, for example, to link many direct-line families found in the existing baptismal records, which begin in 1553.

Notarial records have also helped clarify family ties in cases of surname flexibility, a common challenge

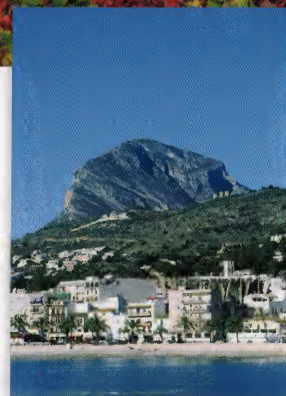


in Spanish research before 1650. In another part of Spain, in the city of Zorita, province of Caceres, the finding of a will in the notarial books managed to tie a family together. The testator, Alonso Sanchez Ximenez, names as his heirs “my children Tome Xil Canos, Maria Rodriguez and Alonso Sanchez Ximenez.” No other document gives a distinct surname for each child—explaining at last the challenges posed by that family line.

Success in Spanish Records

A number of books and pamphlets available either online or in most bookstores (see the Suggested Reading list on page 36) can guide both beginning and advanced Spanish researchers. With these helps, even a beginning researcher who knows the place of origin in Spain should be able to trace back several generations, if not several centuries. Research can be conducted from filmed records for many places in Spain. For others, research by cor-

respondence, hiring a professional researcher, or traveling to Spain can yield equally excellent results. Regardless of the method or combination of methods a researcher chooses, Spain’s detailed volumes of civil registers, parish records, censuses, and notarial records promise the possibility of successful results. ♪



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1870	1873–78	1898	1930	1931	1936–39	1975	1978
National civil registration adopted, responsibility assigned to local courts; civil marriage instituted	Second Carlist War	War with the U.S., Spain loses its last colonies (Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines)	Second Spanish Republic established	First law creating provincial historical archives to house notarial records	Spanish Civil War ends; Francisco Franco’s forty-year dictatorship begins	Restoration of the monarchy under Juan Carlos I	New constitution establishes democracy under a constitutional monarchy with full religious freedom



Your Visit to the Courthouse

by Christine Rose, CG, CGL, FASG

It is a thrill to hold an original early seventeenth- or eighteenth-century document. Perhaps it is a will bequeathing a few teaspoons, a handful of utensils, and meager household goods. The sense of connection to an ancestor you feel when you are holding that will—the piece of paper on which he or she touched and scribbled a name or mark—can instill enthusiasm that will bring you back to the courthouse in search of more.

Even if the document is a clerk's transcribed copy rather than the original, you can reflect on your ancestor's thoughts as he or she decided who was to receive each precious possession. In other court documents, you can imagine your ancestor's joy when reporting the birth of his first child or sadness when his five-year-old dies during an influenza epidemic. When torrential rains drowned the crop and the mortgage was foreclosed, you can sense the family's despair.

We seek to use courthouse records to help weave the story of our ancestors' lives, to understand them and the times in which they lived.

What Offices Should I Visit First?

Determine the best facility to conduct your research and be prepared with addresses, maps, and the hours the facility is open. Then learn the date of formation of the county and parent counties. Consult *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources* (Ancestry, 2004) for county information of each state. Genealogists will be most interested in visiting the courthouse offices of:

Register of Deeds or County Recorder

Probate or Surrogate

Orphans' Court

Civil Office or Prothonotary

Chancery/Equity

Vital Records

Tax Assessor

Map Department

Remember that the offices will be named depending upon the state and county. Some offices, such as Prothonotary, Orphan's Court, and Surrogate, are found in only a few states. Check the posted directory as you enter the building, or look for an information desk.

Offerings at the Courthouse

The documents you will find at the courthouse often provide proof of relationships, or at least clues to those relationships. But for the best research results, you will need to broaden your search to all the records in the area involving the surname during the time period in which your ancestors lived. If you focus only on one individual, you may miss opportunities to identify relatives. Even when your ancestors are not located in the indexes, a broadened search may turn up a child, a witness, a bondsman, a buyer at an estate sale, and more in documents concerning another person of the surname. Those references may provide clues. And sometimes a relationship may be specified, even when the ancestor's name is not actually indexed.

Quick Facts on **Land Records**

- Records concerning land ownership are among the most reliable sources.
- Land records are full of clues on relationships, occupations, and other details.
- There are various and assorted types of land documents.
- Federal land-states differ from state land-states in methods of transfer of land to an individual.
- Surveying systems differ among states, and sometimes within the same state.
- Land records indexes may differ from indexes in other courthouse offices.
- A number of non-land documents are located in the Recorder's Office.

Quick Facts on **Vital Records**

- Early registration of vital records was spotty.
- Many cities maintained vital records that predate county registrations.
- Many cities continue to maintain their own separate records, aside from the county records.
- When a birth, marriage, or death was not recorded, other records in the courthouse can supply proof of the events.

The Quick Facts in this article appear in the author's new book *Courthouse Research for Family Historians: Your Guide to Genealogical Treasures* (CR Publications, 2004).

For example, an orphan's name is not usually indexed. If you try to find five-year-old Mary Jurgens, you probably

won't find her in the indexes. But in collecting all the documents of those individuals bearing the same surname, you may note a male Jurgens who left an estate. With no prior hint that he is related to Mary, you can nonetheless start abstracting that estate file. And there, buried in the probate packet, may be one reference listing little Mary as an orphaned daughter. This type of unexpected find happens frequently and emphasizes the need to do a broad search of all courthouse records of a particular surname.

Once accumulated, courthouse records can be combined with other sources and can result in solid evidence of relationship, as well as a glimpse into the lives our ancestors led.

Sometimes you will be rewarded beyond your expectations. For instance, a family legend that an ancestor was feisty may be substantiated in courthouse documents. The sheriff's cryptic remarks on the back of the execution of judgment for debt may report that when he arrived at the cabin to levy on the household goods, he was met at the front porch by your great-great-grandfather. Shotgun in hand, this man was determined not to yield his few possessions. Or perhaps accounts of the family's poverty are vividly verified when you discover that great-grandmother was hauled before the county court for milking her neighbor's cow. Or, confirmation of the family's substantial contribution to its frontier town may surface when bond books in the courthouse record their oaths of office. The documents are "stories" of your ancestors and piece by piece they build a credible account.

Preparing for Your Visit

You may be asking yourself why it's so important to go to the courthouse. Aren't all the records of the courthouse available either on the Internet, on microfilm, or in published sources? You'll find that many records languish on the shelves, attics, or basements of the courthouse, unused and neglected.

If you've never conducted research at the courthouse or if the only time you went you were so intimidated you never returned, a few pointers here will help you overcome your reticence and help you enjoy a productive trip.

First, prepare for your visit to the courthouse by learning to read old handwriting. This is essential. You'll no doubt have only a few hours at the courthouse, or a day or two at the most, and you'll want to make the most of your time there. Practice with old documents, study guidebooks with examples, and visit websites that offer assistance in reading old-fashioned script.

You'll also want to be prepared to abstract. Photocopying everything you find will not only be costly, but will be time-consuming as well. (This is especially true if the clerk does



not permit photocopying by anyone other than courthouse personnel.) Using the correct technique of abstracting will prevent the loss of critical family clues. If you do find a document that is important to the identification of your family, be sure to photocopy it, but also abstract it immediately so you can follow those leads while you are onsite.

Next, learn about indexes. Use guidebooks to become familiar with the varied types of indexes. It is easy to miss names in an index if you don't know how to properly use it. When you are onsite, open the index book and study the first few pages for an explanation of the index and how to use it. If the index defies your understanding, be sure to ask the clerk.

Onsite at the Courthouse

Unfortunately, the clerk may not react enthusiastically to your visit. Clerks are busy with their responsibilities and are often unsympathetic to the genealogist who wants to search the old records. In fact, the clerk may not know just what the courthouse has in early records, nor how to use them. Come to the courthouse prepared. Know what records you

Quick Facts on Estate Records

- A decedent's estate was probated only if it was valued above a certain monetary figure determined by law.
- Primogeniture was practiced in some states and was abolished a few years after the Colonial period ended.
- The New England states (with the exception of Rhode Island) and Pennsylvania did not practice primogeniture but instead gave double portions to the eldest son.
- Women generally did not leave wills unless they were widowed or single.
- A bequest of one dollar or five shillings does not prove the person was disinherited.
- Estates can be accessed by a variety of different indexes.



Quick Facts on Wills

- Wills can provide many clues, but understanding the wording is essential.
- When the decedent left no will, his estate is “intestate,” or otherwise known as “administration.”
- For various reasons, an administrator might handle a testate proceeding instead of an executor.
- The process in an administration is similar to the process when there is a will.
- Guardianships are generally for minors, but they can be for other reasons, such as incompetency.

want to examine. Land? Probate? Additionally, have an idea of the time period you need to search. Then simply ask the clerk where the indexes to those particular records are kept.

Keep a few rules of etiquette in mind while you're at the courthouse:

- Don't lay paper on the courthouse record book while writing since it can leave marks.
- Put the books back where you found them.
- Check the posted signs to see if pens are permitted.
- Don't take up excessive counter space.
- Thank the clerks when you leave.

When examining the index, copy all the entries for the surname in that particular time period. This is important since the index is your key to the documents. Even the index used by itself can reveal relationships.

For instance, if John Schneider gift-deeded land to William Schnieder, even without examining the document, you can be relatively sure there is a relationship between the two men. If five people of the same surname lived along Indian Creek, it is likely those people are related. Or if you don't know the name of an ancestor's wife, the deed index could disclose that George Hopper and his wife Lucinda bought land, so at least you will be furnished with her first name.

You will still want to look at as many of the actual documents as you can for the additional details they furnish but don't overlook the value of indexed entries.

Once you have copied the listings, decide which ones look the most promising. First, look at those identified as belonging to your family. Then, look at those where the column describing the type of document looks promising for identification of relationships. For example, in the deed office you'll want to examine those records identified as partitions (dividing inherited property or selling it and dividing the proceeds), powers of attorney (often given to a relative to settle an out-of-state matter involving the family), quitclaim deed (conveying a known or possible interest, often to a relative), a gift deed (often

among family members), and as many others as you can in the time you have. Also, property transactions that are connected with an estate—perhaps being sold by an executor or administrator—are important to examine.

You could effectively use a small handheld computer for your research at the courthouse, but bringing a laptop into the courthouse is not recommended. The counters are often high and slanted, and sometimes they don't have lips to prevent things from slipping onto the floor. Also, counterspace is often limited and the use of electrical outlets is usually restricted. Be sure to bring hard-copy summaries of your research problem for easy reference.

Dress comfortably. Dark colors will keep you looking presentable after handling dust-covered books all day. Flat shoes will keep you safe while climbing up and down ladders or when using narrow staircases. If you can't lift the heavy document books, bring someone with you who can.

Before you leave the courthouse, keep in mind that one record often leads to other records. You'll see that a marriage bond is followed by a marriage certificate; and an estate inventory is preceded by either a will, or when there is no will, an administration proceeding. A partition deed dividing property is preceded by a court action in which one or more members of the family petitioned the court to either divide the property or sell the property and divide the proceeds.

In some areas, the courthouse has documents that are not typically associated with court records. In New York, for example, the courthouses often keep the original books of state census records. Some states store indexes to the censuses that have been prepared by local societies. In Indiana, old newspapers are often found on the courthouse shelves. Be sure to look around and see what's at the courthouse you're visiting.

After Your Visit

Once you return home from the courthouse, create a file on your computer, and enter all abstracts, index entries, and other notes from your courthouse research. It is best to do this while it's fresh in your mind.

Examine and re-examine your notes. Did John Martin appear several times on the documents of your Jordan ancestors? Could he be related? Study all the surnames associated with your family, paying particular attention to any that are repetitious. Be alert for the neighbors; they can lead you to prior residences. If the neighbors' names are unusual and can be easily identified in a prior state through censuses or other statewide records, you may find where your own family originated. Families and neighbors migrated together, especially when they were moving from state to state.

Do the same study with names of witnesses, bondsmen, neighbors, and all others associated in the records with your family. But don't limit yourself to the names of persons. If your family owned property on Crooked Creek, see how many others of the same surname lived along that creek. If your family lived in a state with a rectangular survey in sections, townships, and ranges, check the property description for land records of others of the surname to see how close they lived. Neighbors bearing the same surname are most likely related.

Quick Facts on Civil and Criminal Records

- A variety of record books can be found in the Civil and Criminal department.
- If an index is nonexistent, dockets can serve as substitutes.
- Criminal records can often be found among the civil records.
- Civil actions usually include a plaintiff and a defendant.
- Not all civil actions are adversarial.
- The paper trail of a court case can lead to a number of record books and file packets.
- Tax records can give clues on age, inheritance, prosperity, occupation, and more.
- Criminal records can include a mention of your ancestor even if he or she did not commit a crime.

Finally, it is important to familiarize yourself with the legalese in the documents since those strange clauses can provide considerable clues. If your ancestor left a will in which he gave one hundred acres "to my son and his heirs lawfully begotten of his body forever," he was restricting the future of that parcel so that it would remain in the family. Research terminology you don't understand in a guidebook or law dictionary.

When you visit the courthouse you will find it to be an immensely rewarding experience. Finding documents that may solve the puzzle is exhilarating, and you'll undoubtedly find treasures there that are not available elsewhere.

Christine Rose CG, CGL, FASG, is the author of several books including the recently released Courthouse Research for Family Historians: Your Guide to Genealogical Treasures (CR Publications, 2004). She specializes in courthouse research, as well as in military and land records.

Back to Basics

What do you do when you discover that for forty years of your great-grandparents' married lives they lived in a place 1,200 miles away from your own home?

First, do as much research as you can from home. Be sure you search for history and information of that area in your local library. Then check online resources including Ancestry.com and the library catalog at FamilySearch.

But there will undoubtedly come a time when you'll need onsite research performed at the ancestral town and county. You may find that very little microfilming, indexing, and abstracting of records has been done of the area or that visiting the place is the most effective way to find the answers you are seeking.

Most of us naturally begin planning a research trip to conduct onsite research. But many factors such as financial constraints, family needs, scheduling conflicts, even physical limitations may prevent such a trip. Your next best option may be to hire the services of a professional genealogist.

Do I Really Need a Professional?

You may be thinking that there are some wonderful genealogists all over the world who are willing to check the probate records at the courthouse or the church records for you at no charge. Perhaps you have already worked with some through a mailing list or message board, and they have willingly volunteered their time. But it's not always possible to find someone who has extensive experience doing the type of research you need, and it's not likely that he or she can devote a substantial amount of time to your research. A professional researcher can provide the time, energy, and expertise you need to resolve your family research questions.

You can easily go online or look for advertisements in genealogy publications to find professional genealogical services. But it is wise to do some research when planning how

you will spend your genealogical dollars. Finding the right professional for your needs takes some work. The old axiom: "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is" fits the genealogical arena as well as any other aspects of life. If an advertisement claims that the professional can find your ancestor or has accessibility to all sources, it may be time to heed another wise axiom: "Buyer beware." The genealogical marketplace is no different from any other area of consumerism when it comes to making choices about spending your hard-earned money.

How Do I Find a Professional?

Clearly defining and understanding what you want researched is the important first step to hiring a professional researcher. Be sure about your research plan before you begin your search for a professional. Then locate a potential researcher, make the ini-

tial contacts, and evaluate his or her expertise.

Where can you find a researcher to fit your needs? The sidebar on the following page lists three professional organizations that have online directories of professional genealogists. These organizations have rigorous requirements and tests that a researcher must qualify for and pass before being admitted into the organization.

Additional resources include researchers-for-hire lists that you can obtain from historical and genealogical societies, libraries, and courthouses. Advertisements can also be found in many genealogical publications, via the Internet, and at genealogical events.

When evaluating the researcher's expertise, consider his or her accessibility to records, standards of conduct, and overall experience and knowledge. The researcher should clearly



**Working
with
a
Professional**

by Paula Stuart Warren, CGRS

state what information, documents, or materials will be needed from you in advance. Once you hire that person, there will likely be a contract or letter of agreement for you to sign.

Providing sufficient details and documents to fully utilize the professional's range of knowledge and skills is important. When possible, state your objectives in terms of the information you are seeking, not just the specific records you want checked. Allow the professional some leeway in the search. After all, he or she knows the local resources better than you do and will likely have a better analytical approach to solving the research problem(s).

What Other Services Are Available?

You'll find that professional researchers have many skills beyond locating, working in, and copying specific records and indexes that you can't personally access. Following is a listing of some of the other things you can hire a professional to do for you:

- Conduct in-depth research in a range of records for a specific geographic area.
- Locate the original records to back up information you found on the Internet or in a published index.
- Provide general advice and guidance in developing a research plan.
- Discuss specific research problems and clarify confusing or conflicting records.
- Explain a resource or record that is new to you.
- Update you on new resources and changes in access, laws, and technology.
- Determine the repositories, books, seminars, conferences, or trips that might be most worth your while.
- Help you get started researching in a particular geographic area.
- Provide information on specialty sources in other geographic areas.

- Organize the folders, albums, piles, or boxes of material you have gathered.
- Explain a particular locality's records and the laws that have impacted them over the years.
- Provide an orientation to a specific record repository and/or work with you side-by-side in that facility.
- Give hands-on assistance and training in using software, the Internet, and other technology.
- Evaluate evidence and determine when a relationship or event is sufficiently proven.
- Prepare membership applications for hereditary societies.
- Assist in locating long-lost relatives or obtaining hard-to-access records.
- Organize, write, edit, and/or publish your family history.
- Consult on a special research project or plan educational programs.
- Research a specific artifact and help to determine the original owner and any background information.
- Help to plan and run a family reunion.
- Conduct interviews of individuals using audio and/or video recording devices.
- Translate documents that are written in an unfamiliar language.

Locating a Professional Genealogist

Association of Professional Genealogists (APG)

P.O. Box 350998

Westminster, CO 80035-0998

Membership organization with an online directory, code of ethics, and helpful information online at <www.apgen.org>.

Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG)

P.O. Box 14291

Washington, DC 20044

BCG associates have undergone a testing process. An online roster, code of ethics, and other helpful information is online at <www.bcgcertification.org/>.

International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen)

P.O. Box 970204

Orem, UT 84097-0204

Accredited Genealogists (AG) have undergone a thorough and intensive testing process. An online listing and other helpful information are online at <www.icapgen.org>.

What Should I Expect to Pay?

Remember that you will be paying for the time the researcher spends researching, analyzing your material, and preparing reports, as well as any costs incurred for photocopies, certificates, and postage.

Some professional researchers charge by the job, but most charge by the hour. Be prepared to pay an hourly rate of between twenty-five and seventy-five dollars.

You will often find that the highest hourly rate doesn't necessarily mean the highest overall bill. For example, a researcher who charges twenty dollars an hour, but who doesn't know the sources, repositories, or record keepers well, may take eight hours to complete a research project that a more knowledgeable and skillful researcher who charges forty dollars an hour could complete in three hours—and the research might be more comprehensive. Remember that you are paying for time and expertise, not a promised positive result.

How Do I Evaluate the Results?

Good communication, keen judgment, and realistic expectations are key when working with the professional researcher you have hired—from beginning to end.

You can always expect a written

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www.frontiertexas.com ★ Open Daily ★ 325.437.2800

WE MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO YOU.

YOUR FAMILY TREE.

Selma and Dallas County are among Alabama's oldest frontiers. You might find your roots trace back to Old Live Oak Cemetery, which dates back to the early 1800s. Your family name may be in the Genealogy Department archives of the Selma/Dallas County Public Library. There's no telling what kind of stories you'll get out of the locals. Who knows? Maybe you're from Selma.

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report from the researcher—generally at the conclusion of the researcher's work. Be sure to evaluate the final report with some of the following questions: Does the researcher explain why certain resources were utilized? Does each record or other copy have a full source citation on it? Has the researcher given me suggestions for further research? Is there a summary of the research aims and results? Did the researcher provide an easy-to-read report that clearly explains what records, libraries, microfilms, or court-houses were checked?

Also, does the report give adequate details? For example, does it state, "No Griffins were found in the probate index"? Or does it say, "The Brown County probate index covering 1795 to 1999 was checked and no John Griffin was listed. This index is alphabetical by the first three letters of the surname. This index was used at the Brown County Courthouse."

Your own growth as a genealogical researcher is important in this process as well, so don't ignore the advice and suggestions for further work given in the report or cover letter. If the researcher advises you to contact another professional on some specific aspects, it is likely good advice.

You'll find that the professional network can be a great benefit for your research. Many professionals know others with specific expertise in certain geographic areas or with a type of record—and they can all be called upon to help you with your research. ♪

Paula Stuart Warren, CGRS, is a professional genealogist, consultant, writer, and lecturer. She has lectured all across the United States and is a course coordinator at the annual Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. She is also co-author of Your Guide to the Family History Library: How to Access the World's Largest Genealogy Resource.

North American cities are more ethnically diverse than any other urban centers in the world: New Orleans has its celebrated French Quarter. Chicago houses Germantown. San Francisco's Chinatown is famous. And New York City has historically been a gathering place for immigrants of many ethnic backgrounds. These ethnic urban centers are not the result of chance or of civic diversification programs. They evolved as migrants of various ethnic groups immigrated to the United States and banded together because of the comfort associated with familiarity and, sometimes, to avoid ethnic discrimination. This migration trend resulted in the establishment of ethnic neighborhoods in urban areas and even the populating and defining of cultural and economic landscapes of entire U.S. regions.

Understanding migratory trends of our immigrant ancestors may help us track their movement to and in the United States and allow us to glimpse their thoughts and feelings as they established themselves in an unfamiliar "land of opportunity."

Ethnic Familiarity

Consider how you might feel if you and your family decided to immigrate to a new country. Perhaps you, and your ancestors for centuries before, had lived only in France or Italy. Your culture, religious beliefs, and language would be an important part of your life and your identity. How easy would it be to give up that identity and live in the new world?

Our immigrant ancestors were plunged into an entirely new life the moment they reached the U.S. shoreline. They undoubtedly asked themselves if they would find employment that would support them and their family. Perhaps they wondered what other sacrifices would need to be made before they found success in America.



Migratory Trends OF THE PAST

by Roseann Reinemuth Hogan, Ph.D.

Such ancestors likely chose to live among people from their home country because they felt a level of comfort and safety, as well as mutual support and trust in their neighbors who knew the same lifestyle they were familiar with in the old country. Immigrants were welcomed to the United States after a long, expensive, and challenging journey by other immigrants and were likely relieved by the freedom to speak in their native language.

In addition to the comfort such a community might provide, banding together was a very effective way for immigrants to establish economic viability, to establish small businesses that catered to the specific needs of the ethnic group(s) in the area. Thus we can see the origins of the ethnic neighborhood.

The Ethnic Neighborhood

Ethnic neighborhoods in the United States became typical after about 1840 with the huge influx of Irish fleeing the

ravages of the potato famine. The Irish were followed by successive waves of Italians, Slavs, and Poles.

Upon arrival, these immigrants naturally sought people and things that were familiar to them. Newspapers printed in their native languages provided information of their homeland and traditions that would be difficult to obtain through mainstream papers. Social and benevolent societies were often established and served as a social welfare network. Churches established by various ethnic groups provided yet another connection to traditions and lifestyle left behind.

In such a community, the immigrant could find friends and family who spoke the same language and often shared a common culture and religion. Ethnic schools, churches, benevolent associations, and lodges facilitated the difficult transition to America, as did shops, restaurants, taverns, and other businesses owned by members of a particular ethnic group.

The development of an ethnic neighborhood is illustrated by the large influx of German immigrants to Chicago after the 1848 Revolution in the German principalities. These immigrants were typically laborers who found jobs in the lumber industry. They eventually began opening up their own businesses that catered to the interests and culture of German neighbors. They wanted to worship in their native tongue, so they started their own churches. Then a newspaper was needed to provide pragmatic information, and, gradually, a German community was born.

For family historians, these ethnically based organizations, societies, and publications provide a wealth of information about our ancestors and their life in the new world. They are also rich sources of information about the ethnic community's history, its inhabitants, and the life cycle of the neighborhoods.

The ethnic neighborhood has a life cycle all its own. The first stage begins as a new migrant population infiltrates and eventually dominates a geographic area. The structures an ethnic community builds or the way it modifies existing houses reflect the culture and architecture of the old country. Following the initial phase, the immigrants and their children begin the



Our immigrant ancestors were plunged into an entirely new life the moment they reached the U.S. shoreline.

acculturation process. The things of the old world gradually give way to the language and culture of the new.

As the older immigrants age and die, the young are more likely to disperse into a wider or even new community. Sometimes, especially in urban areas, one ethnic group simply replaces another. Boston's West End, which was mostly Irish in the nineteenth century, changed slowly until, by the beginning of the twentieth century, Jewish families had replaced the Irish. By the 1930s, the Poles and Italians had replaced the Jews.

Migratory Trends

Ethnic communities are not limited to urban neighborhoods made

up of a few streets or blocks. They often extend to large regions of the country. Some examples of regional communities include African Americans in the southern United States and French settlements in Louisiana.

As an example, Iowa's early history is made up of waves of migrations. The state was settled in the early years by families from the more eastern states of Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio. Later, Swedes settled in Boone County, and Danes settled in southwestern Iowa. The Dutch also had two

major settlements in Iowa, the first in Marion County and the second in northwest Iowa. Many Swedes became farmers and coal miners, as did Croats and Italians. Italian migration to Iowa is interesting to note as it followed the pattern of chain migration.

In chain migration, the pioneer immigrant journeys to the new land generally funded by savings from the family at home. Once in the new country, the immigrant finds employment and helps to pay for the next wave of relatives to join him or her. When the new immigrants arrive, they live with the sponsoring relative for a time before they settle and begin to earn money for more members of the family and community back home

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to join them. A natural outcome of these chain migration patterns is that families and friends ended up living in close proximity to each other in the new land.

Another example of a regional ethnic community is the German American farmers who moved westward across the continent in the mid-1800s. Many took advantage of the free public land offered by the Homestead Act of 1862. From Ohio to Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa they planted corn, a crop seldom grown in Germany. A

tas, Nebraska, Kansas, and parts of Colorado and turned the vast grasslands into the great American bread basket.

Germans from Russia also migrated to California, planting grapevines. Those from the Volga region of Russia settled around Lodi in central California, and Germans from the Black Sea area formed communities in the San Joaquin Valley around Fresno.

But these migratory trends don't always originate from outside the country. Take for example the mass-movements of southern African Americans to the northern industrial cities. One early exodus occurred between 1879 and 1881, when about sixty thousand African Americans moved into Kansas and others settled in the Oklahoma Indian Territories in search of social and economic freedom.

In the early decades of the twentieth century, thousands of blacks migrated to the industrial North drawn by jobs and pushed by the South's failing agrarian economy. They sought higher wages, better homes, and political rights. Between 1940 and 1970 the continued migration had transformed the country's African American population from a predominately southern, rural group to a northern, urban one.

Knowledge of the patterns and dynamics of cluster migrations and ethnic neighborhoods can be a valuable tool in your expanding understanding of your family's experience. You'll find that you can better trace you're ancestors' movements and understand their life decisions as you come to understand these cultural and migratory changes. ☞

Roseann Reinemuth Hogan, Ph.D., has been researching her family history since 1978. Her special interests include oral history and social history.

Further Reading

Urban Enclaves: Identity and Place in America, by Mark Abrahamson (St. Martin's Press, 1996).

Sense of Place: American Regional Cultures, by Barbara Allen and Thomas J. Schlereth (University of Kentucky Press, 1990).

The German American Family Album, by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler (Oxford University Press, 1998).

The African-American Mosaic: A Library of Congress Resource Guide for the Study of Black History and Culture, online <www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/afam001.html>.

large number of Germans also took up dairy farming. The "dairy belt" included parts of upstate New York as well as Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota.

Similarly, thousands of German families who lived in Russia as specialists in the cultivation of wheat immigrated to the United States when the Russian government revoked their exclusive privileges in 1872. They brought with them winter wheat seeds and the skills to plant wheat in the fall and make it survive the harsh winters of the northern plains states. These Germans settled in the Dako-

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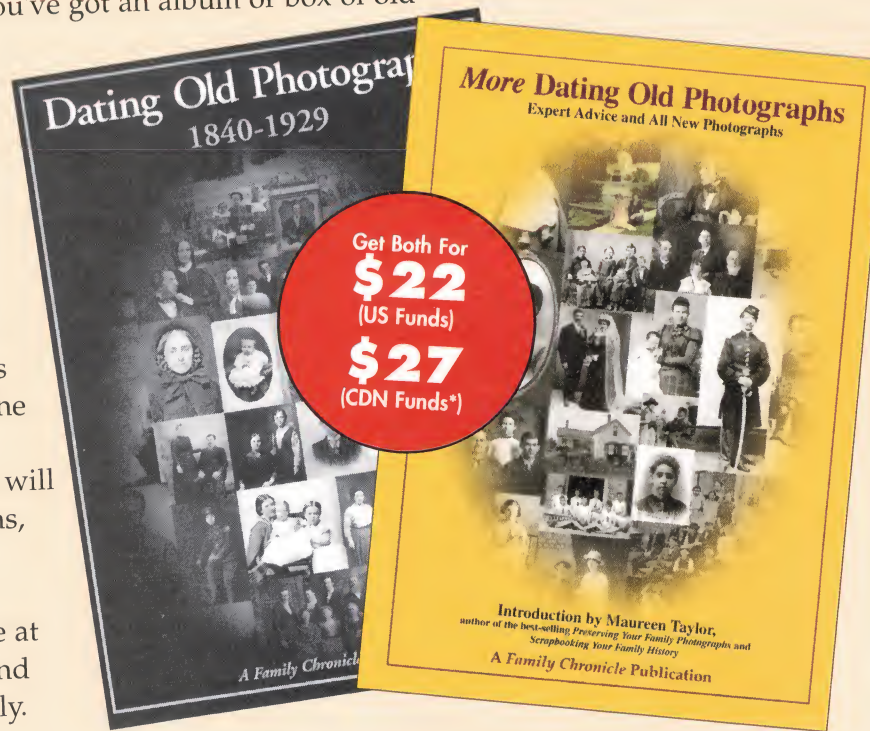
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It is a biological fact that we have an equal number of male and female ancestors. Yet it is an historic truth that there are never as many records for the females as the males in our ancestry. It's the reason we reach so many dead ends and leave more barren branches on the right side of our family tree than the left. "Who was your father's father's father?" is generally an easier question to answer than "Who was your mother's mother's mother?"

Finding the lost ladies in your lineage is a persistent challenge. In the past, men were the keepers of the public records. They were generally better educated and held positions of public power such as clergymen, politicians, and clerks. Many of the social records generated by both men and women—letters, journals, family Bibles, and memorabilia—were typically saved and passed down within the family by our female ancestors. It's ironic that while the caretakers of these records are female, they are often the people we know so little about.

Names and places are critical to the successful pursuit of ancestors. When women marry we can lose track of not only their names, but often their places of birth and early residences as they move into new communities or migrate to other regions with their husbands. It is a double whammy that hits our research with a glaring gap. Unless there is an accurate record of the woman's maiden name when she marries, we rarely have another opportunity to find her origins. But once we discover who she is, we can often add another set of parents, hers, to a family.

There are well-known tricks to tracking down those elusive females. These include naming patterns, community relations, land deeds, census records and the correct interpretation of them, and so much more. Several prominent genealogists have books, lectures, or tapes devoted to the subject. These individuals include Elizabeth Shown Mills, Sharon Carmack, Sandra

Luebking, and David Dearborn. I recommend investigating these resources for more depth on the subject.

My most successful pursuits involve searching collateral lines. While luck seems to play some role in finding female ancestors, more and more good genealogists are learning that focusing on direct lines limits research, while probing the families of siblings and cousins yields connections.

I'd like to review some ways I've been successful using collateral lines and unusual documents in researching the females in my ancestry. By doing so, I've not only discovered lost names and relationships but also a heightened awareness of how they lived their lives.

AN IMMIGRANT CHANGES HER NAME

My grandmother's mother, Maria Schaefer, came from Prussia, Germany, to Erie, Pennsylvania, in 1854 when

she was ten years old. I knew her maiden name and immigration date from census records and a marriage certificate. There are two witnesses listed on the certificate with the same last name, Caroline and Ferdinand. Although Schaefer is a very common name, I was hopeful they were related. For some reason my grandmother was extremely secretive about her mother's past, so we have no family stories to take Maria back to her German roots.

After five years of searching for Maria in immigration records and ships passenger lists, and finding only the wrong ages, dates, or names, I finally took a closer look at a microfiche record in the Family History Library of emigrants leaving Potsdam, Germany. Listed on a card for one Schaefer family were the names Maria, Ferdinand, and Caroline, along with other family members. But Maria was the name of the mother, not a daughter. Looking



THE Ladies IN YOUR Lineage

BY LAURA G. PRESCOTT

more closely at one name, Dorothea Friedericke, a ten-year-old, I gasped out loud when I realized she had the identical 20 April 1844 birth date as my great-grandmother Maria.

Abandoning earlier assumptions and following intuition with this new data, I was able to place the family in various towns adjacent to Erie, Pennsylvania. There are still more records to investigate before I can completely confirm that Dorothea Friedericke is indeed Maria, but in my

home. Each article is valued, and the total nears six hundred dollars. At the end of the list is written: "The above articles of Furniture, Silver ware, ... carpets, &c. are to constitute the household furnishing of said Rebecca W. after her marriage and are expected to be placed in a house in Leyden Street Plymouth, hired and to be occupied by said Joseph W. and his family." Documents like this, as well as letters and manuscripts archived in historical societies and libraries

THERE ARE WELL-KNOWN TRICKS TO TRACKING DOWN THOSE ELUSIVE FEMALES.

heart I'm convinced she is the same person. Discovering this may also have solved the mystery of a middle initial that has puzzled me for years, as it only appears on her gravestone. It is the letter "D."

DOCUMENTS OF A DIFFERENT NATURE

Sometimes we know a woman's name but learn more about her life through atypical documents recorded during her lifetime. Jonathan Richardson and Sarah Fudge had four children who were orphaned before they reached adulthood. They were placed under guardianship and a gap of eighteen years appears in the record before my great-great-grandmother Rebecca W. Richardson marries Joseph Collingwood in 1848 at the advanced age of thirty-two years.

A land deed in Plymouth, Massachusetts, recorded shortly after Rebecca's marriage, includes a Schedule A. It is a list of more than forty of Rebecca's personal articles, accumulated during her years as a single woman, legally recorded to assure that her valuables come with her and stay with her in her new

around the country, contribute to our understanding of the lives of our female ancestors.

Personal insights are also gleaned from tales told and recorded by pioneer women. Laura Ingalls Wilder is one such person who popularized frontier tales for children. My Kent family went from Massachusetts to New York to Ohio to Michigan. While Rebecca Richardson Collingwood was setting up her new home in Plymouth, another great-great-grandmother of mine, Laura Almena Kent (future mother-in-law of Rebecca's son), was homesteading in Michigan. As an early pioneer woman in that state, she had memories that future generations wanted to hear. In her late sixties she was asked by her local historical society to reminisce upon her experiences. Her handwritten notes as well as a printed document recording her words and the event are vital elements in the record of that family. They are typical of some of the interesting tales waiting to be found in local historical societies and newspaper archives around the country. While not considered primary evidence, they certainly add to a collection of clues and enliven a family's history.

Clues in census records should also not be overlooked. My widowed great-great-grandmother Mary Carpenter Prescott is listed on the 1870 census with five children, living in the home of her parents, Daniel and Abigail Carpenter. Later, in the 1900 census, after the death of her parents, Mary Prescott is listed in the same house with a divorced daughter, Emma Chamberlain, and another daughter's orphaned child, Louise Richmond. Three women in one household with a direct relationship yet no common surname. Before seeing this record I never knew of Emma's marriage or of a granddaughter with no parents. Before censuses recorded relationships, we could only speculate why different surnames are within one household, but that speculation is often an easy lead to a possible relationship.

THE AUNT WHO GAVE TO HER NIECES

Within collateral lines, my favorite relations are the maiden aunts and widows. Typically it is they who are the self-designated keepers of the family genealogies. While most published genealogies are written by men, they are often compiled with information provided via correspondence to women around the country. These women, freed from commitments to husbands and children, have the time and interest to pursue family connections. Additionally, the spinsters are often resilient and independent enough, some may even say stubborn enough, to perpetuate the survival of information for the female side of the family.

Yet another of my great-great-grandmothers, Deborah Provost, was named after a maiden aunt. This particular great-great of mine and her aunt are in my primary matrilineal or "umbilical" line. I have a tremendous interest in tracing it back as far as the women will take me. Unfortunately, until recently, I was only able to reach Deborah's

mother, my third great-grandmother, Catherine Parker.

While men bequeath property and wealth in their wills, women divvy out the more sentimental items. If they are thorough in their naming of heirs, and because they have no children of their own, you can discover significant relationships within a childless woman's legal documents. (The same is true of bachelor uncles and childless couples.) Fortunately for me, the passing down of memorabilia from one female to another is still going strong in my family. An aunt gave me a very old photograph of a very old woman. She is identified as Deborah Parker, sister of Catherine Parker Provost. In tracking down this very great Aunt Deborah of mine, I discovered a gold mine of relationships.

As genealogists, we sometimes get fixated on finding wills for the men in our family, yet we often overlook

the fact that females, too, can have estates to be probated. I found Deborah Parker's 1872 will in the New Jersey State Archives. In it, twenty-three family members (including fourteen nieces and one nephew) were named and identified. Most of them were new to me. I was able to add spouses to siblings and children to couples, complete with surnames and relationships. I even learned that most of Deborah's siblings were dead, so I could put a limit on my search for their death dates. The following is just one example of the many relationships identified: "I give to Deborah Peeke daughter my deceased Sister Catharine my Gold Watch, I give to Kate wife of John Schenck and daughter of the above Rebecca Parker my small Feather Bed, I give to my niece Emma Arnold daughter of my deceased sister Susan my Wash Stand."

Armed with this information I can better trace the families to the present-

day and follow my lineage through collaterals. Before transcribing Deborah Parker's will I did not know her father's name, but through the additional family data gathered as a result of all these rediscovered relations, I was able to go back one more generation in this family to Jacob Parker and his wife Susan. Predictably, there's now another puzzle in my umbilical line, as there is yet no evidence of Jacob's wife Susan's maiden name or family.

In family history research, solving one puzzle always leads to at least one more. But searching collateral lines and exploring documents thoroughly can lead to a better understanding of the family and may perhaps even place missing ancestors back into your lineage—even those elusive females. ☞

Laura G. Prescott is the director of marketing for the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

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[BA 15] **Chicago: 1873.** This large scale city plan shows a mostly rebuilt Chicago after the devastating fire of 1871. Wards and ward boundaries, railway lines,

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[BA 20] **Philadelphia: 1872 & 1879.** The 1872 map, shows the city divided into wards, identifies cemeteries, some suburban areas and ferries to New Jersey. It also includes an inset map of greater Philadelphia. The 1879 map of Philadelphia and Camden, also shows wards and cemeteries, railway lines, ferries, and many public buildings. **The set: \$11.95**

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GOOGLE FOR Genealogy

by Mark Howells

Google™ has won the search engine wars, for the time being. Its complete text search functionality for its database of over 4 billion webpages has made Google extremely popular. Last year, the search engine processed more than 112 million search requests per day. This year, Google accounts for forty percent of all Internet searches performed in the United States. It has an even larger slice of the search engine pie in other countries—performing sixty-five percent of all searches in the United Kingdom and eighty percent of all searches in Germany.

Even with more than 4 billion webpages cataloged, Google only indexes a portion of the Internet. It isn't a perfect tool, but it's the best tool for the job right now. Perhaps one reason is because Google's catalog of websites is kept very updated. Its bots do an excellent job of searching throughout the Internet for new and updated webpages every day.

For genealogists, using Google is a must. Not only does the search engine provide search capabilities for current webpages, it also provides historical copies of old webpages that have changed or been removed from the Web.

When you view the results of a Google search, you will see a link labeled "Cached" under the individual search results. Following this link will take you to a copy of that webpage stored at Google. This version

shows the website as it appeared when Google last visited it. Faced with the impermanence of information on the Internet, these cached copies can be a great help in finding genealogical information that has otherwise vanished from the Web.

A few tips and tricks for using Google effectively in your genealogical research are noted in this article. You should visit Google Help Central at www.google.com/help/index.html and educate yourself on using Google to its full potential. Of particular value are the Basics of Search and the Advanced Search Tips.

The Google Toolbar

Before the specifics of using the Google website are discussed, a digression on using the Google Toolbar is in order. The Google Toolbar is a free download from Google available at <http://toolbar.google.com>. It allows you to add the search functionality of the Google website to your Microsoft *Internet Explorer* browser. By downloading and installing the toolbar, you are able to do Google searches of the Internet directly from your browser without having to first visit the Google website. A search box appears on your browser's toolbar in which you can directly type your Google searches.

The Google Toolbar has some additional features that make it a handy companion to Google searches. By customizing the Options on the Toolbar, you can maintain a drop-down list of

prior searches you have performed. This is great for helping you keep track of what you've already searched for. In addition, the Highlight button will automatically highlight the exact individual words in your search parameters anywhere they appear in your search results. This makes finding the most relevant results much easier.

When you visit a specific website, the Search Site button on the Google Toolbar allows you to search specifically within that particular website, based on its domain name. This feature is excellent for further drill-down searching once you have located a likely website and want to search more deeply on that site alone.

While not specific to genealogy, another very useful feature of the Google Toolbar is its Popup Blocker. This will close down the popup advertisements that appear when you visit some websites. Be aware that some websites generate new windows for reasons other than advertisements (such as database search results). These new non-advertisement windows may also sometimes be blocked in error by the Popup Blocker. The Google Toolbar allows you to individually unblock popups on specific websites by visiting that site and clicking the Popup Blocker button.

Customizing Google

The Google website can be customized to fit your needs. Information on how to customize the Google website

can be found at <www.google.com/help/customize.html>. The customizations themselves are made at <www.google.com/preferences>.

Customization allows you to specify the language you want to have your searches returned in. The Safe Search Filtering blocks pornographic search results from being returned. Perhaps the most useful customization is for changing the number of results displayed per page. The default number of search results per page is ten, but the maximum allowed is one hundred. Set your number of results per page to the

same search as “Smith AND genealogy.” Google will allow up to about ten individual words for search parameters. If you use more than ten, the remaining words are ignored. Use distinct words for search parameters whenever possible. When searching for a common name such as “John Smith,” adding a location and time to the search parameter such as “John Smith Moonshine Holler Missouri 1902” will produce a more effective result. In Google, the Boolean operators may be represented by mathematical symbols as well as by conjunctions. Thus + is

tion. If you have a John Schmidt who may have also gone by the first name Johannes, you can search Google using “John OR Johannes AND Schmidt” to cover both possibilities. As with non-Internet genealogical research, all possible combinations need to be researched, including nicknames and abbreviations.

To keep a phrase together in the search parameters, surround the search with quotation marks. For example, if you had an ancestor who reputedly survived the Great Molasses Flood of 1919 and you wanted to learn more about the event, you will get more relevant results by enclosing “great molasses flood” in quotations than by letting Google search for them as individual words located somewhere on the same page but not necessarily together.

Using Google is a must, but you'll need to educate yourself in its various features to use it most effectively in your family research.

number that best balances the number of results per page versus the time it takes Google to render the results page for you.

Boolean Operators

Google is not case-sensitive regarding the parameters of your search. A search on the uppercase “SMITH” will generate the same 40 million results as a search on the lowercase “smith.” But the Boolean operators used to qualify search parameters—AND, OR, and NOT—must always be uppercase. Boolean operators are used to broaden or narrow a search by specifying how the keywords in the search parameters must relate to one another.

Google automatically defaults to the Boolean operator AND when you use multiple words in search parameters. Thus, “Smith genealogy” is exactly the

same as AND, | represents OR, and – means NOT.

The NOT Boolean operator is particularly useful if your genealogy includes a famous surname. If you have Jefferson ancestry, Google may return a great deal of information regarding the author of the Declaration of Independence. To avoid this, you could search “Jefferson genealogy NOT Thomas” to avoid information on the famous redhead. If you have a less famous Thomas Jefferson in your family tree, you could avoid results including the third U.S. president by searching for “Thomas Jefferson genealogy NOT Virginia.” Using a location parameter is a good way to focus a search.

The OR operator allows you to waffle on genealogical searches when you are not sure about your informa-

Advanced Search

The Google Advance Search page at <www.google.com/advanced_search> provides a form that can be used to invoke the Boolean operators without having to type them in the search parameters yourself. “Find results with all the words” corresponds to using the AND operator. “Exact phrase” is the equivalent of using quotation marks to keep words together in a search. “At least one of the words” is OR and “without the words” is NOT.

Of particular use for genealogists is the Date, Occurrences, and Domain advance search features. The Date field allows you to search only for the webpages Google has found to be updated in the past three months, six months, or one year. If you are being consistent with your genealogical searches over time, this feature can be very handy for repeating your standard searches on a periodic basis but limiting the search to only those websites that have been updated.

The Occurrences field allows you to specify searches anywhere in any page, in only the title of the pages, in only the text, in only the URL, or in only

the links on the pages. Specifying these types of searches can be useful if you already know a title of a webpage and are trying to find it again or if you know of a particular webpage that references some genealogical information in its text but does not include it in its title or URL.

The Domain field is great for searching genealogy sites with large amounts of content. If you remember that the FamilySearch site has a German word list full of German genealogical words but can't seem to find it at FamilySearch, the Domain field to search for "German Word List" is at <www.familysearch.org> only. Notice that in the search box on the results page for the advanced search for the German Word List appears as "German Word List" site: www.familysearch.org. This shows that the syntax for the Domain Only search is "site:www.familysearch.org."

Other advance search syntax you can type directly into the search box includes "daterange:" for Date, and "intitle:", "allinurl:", and "intext:" for Occurrences. Whether you use the Advanced Search page or type in the syntax yourself is up to you. Either way, if you remember visiting a website whose URL included the phrase "smith genealogy" but you can't remember the exact URL, you can search Google with the syntax "allinurl: smith genealogy" to find it again.

Other Considerations

In the search results returned by Google, you will notice that there are Sponsored Links on the upper righthand corner of the results page. These are paid advertisements placed there based on one or more of the keywords you searched on. Be aware that these sponsored links may or may not be relevant to your search.

As with your offline research, you should be keeping a research log of

what you have searched for through Google. If you keep your word processor open at the same time you use your browser to search with Google, you can easily copy and paste your search syntax from every search and thus keep an exact record of past searches. A research log with a listing of past searches helps you resubmit identical searches three months or six months later when webpages have changed, new webpages have appeared, and Google's index is updated with this new information. Remember to use the Advanced Search Date field or the "daterange:" syntax to avoid getting results you have already seen.

Always try alternate word choices in your searches. Use not only genealogy but also "family history" and "family tree." Different webmasters will title similar webpages differently so try to out-think them. Misspellings are also common on the Internet so don't forget *geneology* for genealogy and *cemetery* for cemetery. Abbreviations need to be taken into consideration in your searches as well. Remember CO for county and Reg. or Reg't for regiment. Finally, initials and nicknames in place of full names are typical so try searching on F.X. for Francis Xavier and Tom for Thomas.

Google is an extremely powerful search engine, and you'll need to educate yourself in its various features to use it most effectively in your family research. Just as you had to learn how to use the microfilm readers when you first visited your local library or Family History Center, you must familiarize yourself with the ins and outs of Google's capabilities. By just typing in a name and hoping for the best, you are not letting Google do the heavy lifting for you. ☞

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Case Study

As I have researched family history over the past few years, I have discovered three things that make the research process both interesting and rewarding: 1) solving a difficult problem, 2) locating new information about ancestors that no one knew was available, and 3) meeting new people who share a common interest in family history. I have rarely encountered all three situations in one research project, but in the autumn of 2003, I did.

One September day, my wife Susan and I drove to a courthouse in a neighboring county, where I wanted to spend the day searching land records. I had just started my research when Robert Taylor introduced himself to me and said that he was doing land title searches.

I told him that I was trying to locate information concerning my great-grandparents from their land records. As we talked, he explained that his family was also interested in family history but that he and his wife Patti were having difficulty locating information about her grandfather, Herbert Stanley Stark. All they had were a few photographs and a marriage record. They had little information about Herbert because he had not remained close to his family after he and his wife were divorced.

Robert and Patti had used the information on the marriage certificate to try to trace Herbert's birth record in England, but they had not been able to locate the city or county of Herbert's birth. Their goal was to find any living relatives in Herbert's homeland in England since they knew of no relatives in America other than his three surviving children.

I knew a little about British research and told Robert that if he would send what information he had, my wife and I would try to help him and his wife with their research.



A Closer Look at HARRY'S UNIFORM

by Gordon Hall Wright

A few weeks later, Robert sent me a package containing a letter, a copy of a marriage license, and a picture of a World War I-era military unit. Herbert was a very tall man who towered over his military unit. If we could locate his military unit we thought his height might be a good way to identify him.

The letter stated that the Stark family believed Herbert came from a place in England called Shipley or Shipsea, but the family could not locate it on any current maps. An old map listed a Shipsea in Lincolnshire, but no other information could be found. The family also thought that the information on the marriage license might

not be correct. Parents named John and Jane? A city that did not exist? Perhaps Herbert had tried to hide his identity when he came to America.

The marriage license stated that Herbert was born 25 August 1885 in England. His parents were John Stark and Jane Dyson. The Taylors knew from the death certificate that Herbert died 3 June 1960 in Hooper, Utah. We proceeded to research from the known to the unknown, hoping to gather some clues.

The Marriott Library at the University of Utah has an extensive collection of old local newspapers, and I located Herbert's obituary while I was there on a research trip. The obituary stated that "Harry" was born in Shipley, Ireland.

My wife found Harry in the 1920 and 1930 U.S. censuses but not in the 1910 Utah census. In the 1920 census, Harry stated that he came to America in 1907 and had been born in Northern Ireland. We searched the Internet and maps for a Shipley, Ireland, but without success. In the 1930 census, Harry stated that he was from England. Our search then expanded to both countries.

My wife and I continued to gather information from a variety of sources. We searched the major genealogy websites, including some British and Irish sites. We could not locate a credible birthplace, nor could we locate any other researchers on the Stark family. We wrote to the funeral home and the cemetery where Herbert was buried, but the documents we received did not give us any ancestral information. We also obtained a copy of Harry's divorce decree and learned more about Harry's life and personality, but the divorce papers did not give us any significant genealogical information. Finally, we took a closer look at the picture of Harry in his military uniform.

We could tell from the uniforms that it was taken in the World War I era, but was it was an American or British military unit? We searched the Internet for military uniforms and decided that the picture was probably taken in England. We then thought that the insignia on the hat of the uniform could be a good clue so we tried to enlarge the photo, but we could only make out the shape of the insignia, not the words.

We looked for that insignia at our local library but could not find a match in either Ireland or England. Since the books we searched were not a complete reference, I decided to write to some British museums and include a copy of the picture of Harry and his regiment. A few weeks later, I received a letter from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London stating that the museum did not have military information in its collection, but that my letter would be forwarded to the National Army Museum in Chelsea.

When a letter arrived from the National Army Museum, much to our surprise, the museum personnel were able to identify the military unit by the insignia on the soldiers' hats. The regiment was the Green Howard or Alexandria, Princess of Wales Own (Yorkshire Regiment). The letter also included an address where we could write to learn more about the Green Howards. A website was also noted.

Harry would have been a member of the regiment in 1917, well past the immigration date of 1907 he had stated in the U.S. census. He certainly was a mystery.

The turning point in our research came when we learned that the regiment was from Yorkshire. We located a parish called Skipsea in East Riding, Yorkshire, England, and read about it on the Internet. My wife searched the 1891 and 1901 indexes of the English census online. She could not find a Herbert Stark nor his parents, so she broadened the search criteria

**The turning
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from Yorkshire.**



and came up with Harry Stork with his parents, John and Jane, and an older sister. The family was living in Skipsea, Yorkshire.

The place was right, Harry was the right age, and the parents' given names were correct. We were sure we were looking at the right family. Could Harry's grandparents, the Dysons, be living nearby? My wife then searched the census and found William and Elizabeth Dyson living in the neighboring parish of Hull along with a niece, Gertrude Stork. The families had been found!

Armed with the parish information, we could trace the Dyson and Stork families in the parish registers and other British census records. We searched the British military records, but Harry's documents must have been among the many that had been

destroyed during the German blitz. My wife also found another researcher in England who was tracing the Dyson family.

My wife and I had given Robert and Patti Taylor regular updates on our research, and we were excited to finally share our success with them. Once we had located the researcher in the Dyson family who lived in England, we were able to help the Taylor family reach its goal of connecting to family in England.

There are still many unanswered questions. Why had Harry listed Ireland as a birthplace? We could not find any record of him in Ireland. Was his name Stark or Stork, and why had it changed? We still cannot find an immigration record for him. Why had he immigrated alone to a small Utah town?

A few weeks after we sent the Taylors our final report, a letter arrived from the headquarters of the Green Howards in England. The letter verified that the picture was from World War I and that it was one of their military units, although they had never seen that particular picture. They also included a photograph. It was a large group of soldiers in dress uniforms. There on the back row was Herbert Stanley Stark. ♀

Gordon Hall Wright has been interested in family history since he was a boy and heard his grandparents tell of their life experiences and people they had known. Over the years he has done extensive research and writing concerning his ancestors who came from Norway, England, and Denmark.

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In 1990, Steven Covey formulated the ground-breaking list of “Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.” They are: 1) be proactive, 2) begin with the end in mind, 3) put first things first, 4) think win-win, 5) seek first to understand, then to be understood, 6) synergize, and 7) sharpen the saw. Let’s see how these habits apply to us as genealogists.

1. Be proactive. This means actively addressing the issues that confront you. Your method of address might range from something as passive as listing the brick walls in your research. It might continue through analysis of problems, buying and reading books, joining a genealogy society, or attending a national genealogy conference. The idea is to ask yourself what you can do, and then to take some kind of action.

2. Begin with the end in mind. How important is it to visualize success? When I was younger, I played golf. If I stood over the ball and could see the shot in my mind, I usually hit the ball something like I wanted. If I drew a blank, I usually duffed the shot. This is similar to having a big picture of what you want to accomplish. If you’re doing research, you may want to publish a family history or cover a wall in your house with pictures of castles or coats of arms. The steps you take next depend a great deal on where you would like to go.

3. Put first things first. No matter what your goals, they can be accomplished by proactively working a list of tasks you set for yourself. One of those tasks will be the first thing you need to do—today, this week, or this month. Only you can choose what is most important, and you should do that first. Covey uses the metaphor of putting big pebbles into a jar before

The Habits of Highly Effective Genealogists

by Beau Sharbrough

the little ones. He also analyzes things that must be done in terms of whether they are important or not important versus urgent or not urgent. Covey points out that we spend a lot of time doing unimportant, urgent tasks, when we should be doing important, not urgent tasks. Ask yourself, “What should I be doing right now?” and then do that thing.

4. Think win-win. Genealogy is not a solitary pursuit. We not only collaborate with other researchers working on our family lines, but we put time and resources into our genealogy that our families might wish to see spent on other activities. Covey’s habits would suggest that you look for ways that you and the cousin who has the family Bible can both win. Clearly you can’t both have the Bible. But can you both feel connected to the ancestors? Can you share the information in the Bible?

5. Seek first to understand, then to be understood. This is an important feature of communication. Sometimes one person is simply waiting for his or her turn to speak and not listening to the other person. If you can’t state the other person’s position in your own terms and in a way the other person would agree describes his or her view, you probably won’t resolve the interpretation of that old will or the relationships among all of the Millers in

Travis County. It’s important to collaborate and to understand.

6. Synergize. This refers to the whole being greater than the sum of its parts. It has many applications, but in this instance it refers to finding creative ways to communicate with others. It also implies that by being creative when dealing with opposing views, we can sometimes find a third way—an approach that isn’t a compromise but part of a larger view that incorporates all views. A common example is the argument of whether to use the birth date implied on the census or the one on the gravestone. Look for a wider view of reality, where contradictory information is the rule rather than the exception, and find a way that you and your cousin can agree about the history of your family.

7. Sharpen the saw. This means doing things to help you work better. I spent fifteen years as a computer consultant, and it seemed like every three years I had to learn a new computer language, a new database, a new set of tools to work. As a genealogist, you will find that there are many ways you can sharpen your saw through learning, practicing, and communicating.

If you spend some time reflecting on your genealogy practices, thinking creatively about your opportunities, choosing actions to make a difference, and balancing your ideas and needs with those of others, you’ll be a more effective genealogist. Covey’s “7 Habits” apply very well to genealogy and might be a useful discipline for all of us to adopt. ♪

Beau Sharbrough is a product manager at Ancestry.com. He is a popular writer and lecturer on genealogy and technology.

To read the full version of this article, visit <www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=8975>.

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